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### BIRTH.

On the 9th June, 1899, at 24, Belilios Terrace, the wife of P. H. ROLFE, of a son.

### MARRIAGE.

At Hongkong, on the 26th June, GEORGE MAC-KENZIE, Chinese Customs Service, Lappa, to GRACE, daughter of Francis MORRISON, Bracklay, Tarves, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

### DEATHS.

At Yokohama, on 15th June, GEORGE W. COFFIN, Captain, United States Navy.

At Kobe, on the 16th June, after a painful illness, ROBERT PATON, a native of Paisley, Renfrewshire, for many years Manager for the Hiogo Gas Co., Limited, in his 54th year.

At Adelaide, Southend, on the 19th June, KATE, the dearly beloved wife of ALFRED R. BOWMAN, of Shanghai.

At Hongkong, on the 28th June, R. C. VANIA, Merchant, aged 60 years, of acute nephritis, deeply regretted. Bombay and Surat papers please copy.

### ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 25th May arrived, per P. M. steamer *Aselic*, on the 25th June (31 days); and the German mail of the 29th May arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Bayern*, on the 26th June (28 days).

### EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Weihaiwei Land and Building Company Limited, has been successfully floated.

On 15th June two hundred colliers lost their lives through an explosion in the Toyokuni coal-mine, in Fukuoka-ken.

Owing to the competition on the Pacific, the new season's teas are being carried from Yokohama at less than a cent a pound.

Mr. R. W. Hurst, H.B.M.'s Consul recently returned from furlough, left Shanghai on the 18th June to relieve Mr. P. L. Warren, Consul at Hankow.

A Reuter's telegram of the 27th June states. Russia has assigned Roubles 13,000,000 for the improvement of Vladivostok, and will expend Roubles 2,000,000 of the amount immediately.

M. Doumer, Governor-General of Indo-China, who recently made a visit to Yunnan-sen, did not make a long stay there. He arrived on the evening of the 7th June and left again at four o'clock on the afternoon of the next day.

At a special meeting of the Shanghai rate-payers held on the 20th June it was resolved that it was not at present expedient to consider the question of disposing of the Municipality's electrical plant and business. Overtures for the purchase had been made by Sir Charles Ross.

An Imperial Ordinance has been published in the *Official Gazette* of Japan announcing that the new Treaties with Great Britain, Italy, Russia, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Sweden and Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Spain, will come into force on July 17th next, and the new Treaties with France and Austria-Hungary on August 4th.

The policing of the Shanghai settlement extension and the collection of taxes in the new area are to commence on the 1st July. The extension amounts to over 5½ square miles, which, added to the 2½ square miles of the old settlement, makes the total area of the Cosmopolitan Settlement something over 8½ square miles.

News has been received at Nagasaki of the murder at Vladivostok of Mr. C. Wahling, of the Vacuum Oil Co. Brief particulars only are given, from which it appears that the unfortunate man was murdered in the night by his Chinese servant, who with a hatchet smashed in the head of his master. Revenge for a supposed grievance is said to be the motive for the crime.—*Nagasaki Press*.

At Manila early on the morning of the 17th June, Senor Paflo Nalda, a well known medical practitioner, was murdered by his native servants while asleep in bed. He was on the point of returning to Spain and had collected a good deal of money the previous day. The deceased had sent his wife and family to Spain by a previous steamer. The murderers had stabbed their unfortunate victim through the breast, cut his head open, and then thrust the knife into his abdomen and left it there. The coachman and two accomplices have been arrested.

*El Noticiero* is in receipt of news from Samar to the effect that two British subjects, residents in one of the villages of that island, were taken prisoners by the Filipinos. On the report becoming known an English cruiser, probably the *Grafton*, which was lying in the harbour of Cebu, was immediately despatched to Tacloban to claim from the authorities there the release of the British prisoners. The commander, not being able to successfully press his claim by diplomatic means, resorted to a more practical way of settling matters by landing a force of Marines, while the ship was cleared for action. This firm attitude on the part of the British had the desired effect, the Filipinos immediately releasing the prisoners without exchanging a shot, and thus much unpleasantness was averted.—*Manila Times*.

It is rumoured in native official circles at Shanghai that the Dowager Empress is in great fear of having poison put into her food and has accordingly given the control of the Imperial kitchen to her nephew, the Grand Secretary and Generalissimo, Jung Lu, who has placed a number of old retainers and well-tried servants to keep watch over the Empress Dowager's daily menu.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *Japan Mail* says:—A naval veteran of the United States passed away, in the person of Captain G. W. Coffin, on 15th June at his residence, No. 45-A Bluff. The deceased was last in command in these waters, of the U.S.S. *Charleston*, but just at the out-break of the war with Spain was invalided home, owing to heart trouble. On reaching the States he was appointed to a post on the Pacific Coast, but the rapid progress of the disease compelled him to resign and Captain Coffin returned to Yokohama only to die. He had a distinguished career in the Navy, and there is no doubt he was heart broken when he left it, and fretting gradually brought about his death.

On the 4th June, a Chinaman at Bangkok informed the police that two of his friends had just been stabbed and disembowelled, in their house in Bangrak, by two other Chinese; and that a third man had been stabbed in the thigh. The police hastened to the spot and found matters as had been described by their informant. The guilty parties had escaped. The men who had been stabbed died the next day. The police upon this arrested ten men on suspicion. The houses of these men were searched. A number of Chinese books, seals, and moulds, and a yellow parchment, said to be the certificate of a secret society, were seized. In addition to this the search-party also seized a long blood-stained knife which was hidden away in a corner of a room.

Extracts from a letter written by Lieut. R. E. H. James, formerly of the Royal North Lancashire Regiment, who is now stationed at Weihaiwei, are published in the *Times of Ceylon*. Under date of 11th May Lieut. James writes:—"We passed Weihaiwei at about 12 this morning. It looks just like Devonshire in its wilder parts. A beautiful spring day—English spring—with blue sky, sun, and a clear, sparkling sea. We all landed at Chefoo and went about together. . . . We went straight to the Agent's, who told me there was no boat for Weihaiwei until Saturday. . . . The town is very English; you see dozens of them on the home costs, only the Chinaman has got here somehow. It is very prettily situated with a ring of hills behind the town, and a "Mount Lavinia" jutting into one side of the harbour, with the Consulates and their different flags atop and a large expanse of country on the other side full of snipe. The coast is all small bays and little headlands. The sea is greeny-blue and is land dotted, with a splendid tide—high and low—with sand and pebbles made for paddling. Do not talk of the beauties of Ceylon. This is the country to live in—the beauty of England with a better climate. No one ever dies here, and no one ever has a head. Large incomes, good stone houses, cheap living, and good servants; shooting where you list, and ponies for £3—if I was married I would never go home, unless my wife wanted to." Of Weihaiwei Lieut. James does not say much, but he declares it to be "the healthiest place in China." That is after one day's experience, but the opinion may prove correct notwithstanding.



TRADE ON THE WEST RIVER  
AND THE INLAND NAVIGATION  
RULES

(Daily Press, 26th June.)

We now have before us the Consular Trade Reports for Samshui and Wuchow for 1898. These reports are of particular interest as they cover the first full year that the West River has been opened to foreign trade. We will deal with them in the order above. After giving an amusing account of the difficulties of obtaining exact statistics from the Chinese merchants, who apparently consider "not a thousand taels" to be quite near enough for the purpose, Mr. Fox, the Acting Consul at Samshui, deals with the large increase that has taken place in the trade coming under the cognizance of the I. M. Customs, which he estimates at almost 140 per cent. on the total of 1897. It is, however, to be noted that 1897 did not comprise a full year, the river only being opened to trade in June of that year. Another point has also to be considered in this connection, and that is that a proportion—estimated at 40 per cent. of the value of Samshui's foreign imports—is trade which has been diverted from Kumchuk. Referring to this Mr. Fox says:—"As an instance of the disastrous effect the 'levy of lekin and kindred imposts has on 'trade the case of Kumchuk, one of the 'ports of call on the West River, thirty miles 'below Samshui, may be cited. In the 'spring of 1898, a thriving business having 'sprung up in foreign imports at Kumchuk, chiefly cotton and woollen goods 'from Hongkong, a tax station for the 'accumulative collection of lekin, tsoli (a 'destination tax properly levied on goods 'only after arrival at their destination 'inland, but commonly levied 'to save 'time' at point of departure) and Chengfei 'or military defence tax. After a struggle 'the rising trade was crushed. Dealers 'now ship their goods to Samshui, where 'they pay a moderate tsoli and are sent 'hence to Kumchuk by native boat freed 'from further duty." In other words, the old game is being played by the Chinese officials and the Chinese merchant; the one sucks up a tax station wherever he sees any trade attempting to find its way in; the other dodges round it and gets in at the back door until he is found out and finds that closed against him. When that happens he simply sits down and stagnation is the result. The British Government are in a measure answerable for this state of things, and especially so at Kumchuk and at Kongmoon, where a similar state of things prevails. They have allowed the Chinese Government to open these places as "ports of call" or "stages" under the same conditions as those ruling on the Yangtze. It might have been expected that their experience on that river would have convinced them that opening such places is useless. The Customs, it is true, publish in their West River Rules that foreign goods can be imported into them direct from Hongkong on payment of a full tariff duty, but, with that precaution which always characterizes their statements, they qualify this by saying that merchandise may only be shipped from or landed into licensed native cargo boats; and it must not be removed therefrom till duty has been paid or payment satisfactorily arranged. (The italics are ours.) As transit passes cannot be obtained at these places it is not difficult to imagine the particular manner in which payment is satisfactorily arranged!

The next thing is the possibilities of the North River trade, which Mr. Fox tells us

are large, and as the river is now opened to inland steam navigation he says the trade could be carried on in chartered junks until suitable steamers are built. Mr. Fox is not quite as clear here as he is in other parts of his report. In the absence of a tariff telling merchants definitely what they have to pay it is difficult to see what advantage is to be gained from a "chartered junk." All junks are chartered by someone. Unfortunately the fact of chartering does not prevent their being "squeezed." The necessity for publishing a Tariff and adhering to it, if any good is to come out of the inland water concession, is dwelt on in a further paragraph of the report. "If the control of inland 'steam navigation and the collection of 'duties thereon is to be placed under Chinese management"—by Chinese the writer here evidently means as distinguished from the I. M. Customs control—"as is now suggested, we should insist that the number and location of all lekin and tsoli 'stations be published and a tariff of duties 'leviable drawn up, any deviation from 'which on the part of the official in charge 'to be treated in the same manner as a 'similar offence (fortunately quite improvable) would be on the part of an official 'in the foreign Customs." The report finishes up with a reference to the absence of any telegraph station at the port. The last fact our readers may remember was made the subject of a question in the House of Commons. Mr. Asquith seized upon it with an "another injustice to old Ireland" sort of manner, and we cannot help thinking that, although it certainly is a disadvantage to the port not to have a telegraph station, the reply given, that there are other and more important matters to consider, showed a good deal of common sense.

From Samshui we pass to Wuchow, and we find there that the increase is considerable in the trade of the port—not as large as was expected, due to the outbreak of the rebellion during the summer of last year, but still on the whole a satisfactory and large increase. Of course it is not to be supposed that this increase is all new trade; some of it doubtless is, but the great bulk is trade which has been taken from other and more roundabout channels of entry to that of the direct route by the West River or else has been diverted from the native to the I. M. Customs at the port itself; or, in other words, goods that used to go to Yunnan via Pakhoi and Nanning, and goods that used to go by junk up from Fatsan, Canton, &c., now go direct from Hongkong, steamer borne to Wuchow, and at that port come under the control of the I. M. Customs. Mr. Hosie, the writer of the report, deals with the products of the province of Kwangsi next, and more particularly with rhea fibre, or China grass, which seems to be daily gaining ground in Europe as a material for textile fabrics. It will be remembered that Mr. Hosie was one of the candidates we suggested some months ago for the post of Commercial Attaché. His well known interest in and knowledge of the various products of China renders him, with some others of our Consular body, eligible and suitable for the post in question. Doubtless short-handedness has a good deal to do with the delay, but we look at no distant date to see the Government give that attention to the filling of this appointment which our large trade interests call for. Turning from the products, the question of transit passes is next dealt with, which, judging by the remarks made, seem to work remarkably smoothly throughout Kwangsi and the neighbouring provinces. Some amusement to the reader, but doubt-

less a good deal of annoyance to both the merchant and Consul, is afforded by the manner in which the provincial officials tried to shuffle out of the question when convicted on unimpeachable evidence of illegal levy of taxes, &c., &c. One story is told where the lekin barrier had to send for the required documents and the messenger made 266 miles in 24 hours! If there are many more like him in China there will be a "slump" in railway stock! In reference to transit passes a curious instance is given of the manner in which the domestic trade of China escapes taxation. Certain goods want to get from Fatsan and the surrounding districts to Nanning; to do this they go to Samshui, are exported to Hongkong, go back in the same steamer to Wuchow, and go thence to Nanning under the cover of a transit pass. To do this they have to pay two and a half full tariff duties to the I. M. Customs, but even that is cheaper than paying the taxation en route. The opening of Nanning should put a stop to this in a measure, but we doubt whether it will entirely. It however speaks well for the value of the transit pass and shows that it is not quite so useless as it is sometimes held to be.

The taxation of the domestic trade leads up to the opening of the inland waters, and on this subject Mr. Hosie expresses himself in no uncertain way. After saying that although the rules say that a provincial officer shall be appointed who will collect the dues and duties on native goods going to or coming from inland waters he adds, "I have received as yet no indication of the amount of these dues and duties." What is wanted if the exports of China are to be developed—and in this lies the development of the foreign buying capacity of the people—is a reasonable tariff for domestic trade. To throw open the inland water of China hampered by restrictions which practically keep them closed and without a drastic revision of the taxation on domestic trade is absolutely "worthless." He then deals with the Inspector General's ruling re steamers plying between two treaty ports not being allowed to ship or land cargo at intermediate places and sums the situation up in the following words:—"The concession is reduced to this. A tradesman in an English town may supply Nos. 1 and 20 situated at the respective ends of a street by a van driven through the street. If, however, he has customers in the intervening houses he must transfer his goods to another van at whichever end of the street he pleases (he has that option) and after supplying Nos. 2 to 19 from that end and that van only he must return the way he entered and on no account must he visit or pass the last house at the other end with his second van." For Nos. 1 and 20 substitute Treaty Port and you have the valuable concession which was, according to Lord Curzon, going to enable British goods to be carried in British ships to every riverside town in China! As our readers are aware, and as we explained in an article on the 15th inst, the Inspector-General's ruling is being enforced on foreign vessels, but as we also pointed out, is ignoring a certain class of Chinese steamers. In the report now under review this class of vessel is referred to under a "arginal note" "Differential taxation de-bars British vessels from a fair share of the carrying trade," and it says:—"One would imagine that nearly the total coast trade, that is, trade between Wuchow, Samshui, and Canton, is carried in British vessels; Ex-cluding the ordinary junk the actual



"const. trade is carried in native vessels specially built for passengers and cargo which land and ship passengers and goods at any place on the river towed by native steam launches. . . . The taxation of the goods carried in these native vessels amounts by special arrangement to less than the duty and a half payable to the I.M. Customs and the coast trade naturally flows in this channel. These steam launches tow vessels not merely to inland places between ports, but even to other treaty ports a privilege denied to British steamers, specially registered under the Inland Navigation Regulations, and so far as I can gather, there is no intention on the part of the I.M. Customs to call upon them to register, or treat them and the vessels towed by them like foreign steamers."

The difficulty for a foreigner to get the right to mine is the next subject dealt with, and it is satisfactory to note that at least one foreign firm appears to have secured that right, although under the absurd regulations issued by Peking some six months ago. The report closes with a very good map of Kwangsi. In spite of differential taxation and obstruction the trade of the West River seems to be steadily increasing. The evils we refer to might with advantage be made the subject of representation by our Chamber of Commerce to both the English and Chinese Governments, as while they exist the full development of trade on that important highway cannot be looked for.

#### ANTI-FOREIGN MOVEMENTS IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 27th June.)

Troubles are raining thickly upon China at present. Within the space of a few days we have had to record an anti-missionary riot in the Fokien province; the murder of two Russian engineers and ten Cossacks at Kirin in Manchuria, the abduction of a German engineer and two surveyors at Kiao-chau, and an attack upon the French Consulate and the Imperial Maritime Customs establishment at Mengtzu, Yunnan. With regard to the anti-missionary outbreak at Kienyang and Kienning, fortunately there was no loss of foreign life, and as Great Britain seems bent upon playing the part of the benevolent friend towards China as is clearly indicated by the proposed retrocession of Shamchun, there will probably be little difficulty in arranging a settlement with regard to the loss of property. In the other cases, however, China will have to deal respectively with Russia, Germany, and France, none of whom will be likely to prove very complacent. The outrage by brigands at Kirin will give Russia an excuse for rendering her control of Manchuria more effective. Germany has shown very plainly that she is not going to put up with outrage or insult in Shantung, and the abduction of her railway officers will be followed by swift and effective punishment, as in the case of the recent outrage near Jichao. As to France, the attack on the Consulate at Mengtzu will no doubt be made the occasion for further large demands in Yunnan. Particulars as to the origin of the Mengtzu affair have not yet come to hand, but it has followed closely upon the visit of M. DOUTRE, the Governor-General of Indo-China, in whose suite was a staff of railway surveyors who were to remain in the province to complete the survey for the line to Yunnan-sen, and it is possibly opposition to this project that has brought about the anti-foreign riot at

Mengtzu. But whatever the cause, the attack on the French Consulate will have to be atoned for, and probably very heavily. Heavy demands, it may be remembered, were put forward recently in Szechuen for satisfaction in respect of the murder of Father VICTORIN, but that province falling within the British sphere of influence territorial compensation could not conveniently be enforced. In Yunnan the conditions are not quite the same and if France should put forward a claim for such a rectification of her frontier as would bring Mengtzu within French territory she would probably encounter no opposition on the part of any foreign Power.

The danger of the situation is increased by the fact that China is at present somewhat puffed up with pride because she imagines Italy is abandoning her claims for a territorial concession in Chekfang through abject fear of the Celestial hosts, while the natives of Kwangtung are under the impression that Great Britain's proposed retrocession of Shamchun is due to the same cause, and the people of other provinces, when they hear of the affair, will share that impression. There is some reason to fear, therefore, that anti-foreign outrages may increase and also that the Peking Government may be led into resisting the claims for compensation for those that have already occurred and the others that are pretty sure to follow. In that case force would have to be applied and the carving up of China would commence in earnest. The situation being thus charged with danger, what should be the attitude of Great Britain? A correspondent whose letter appears in another column takes us to task for having said in a recent article that "the Chinese Government, unable or unwilling to maintain order and fulfil its international obligations, must be assisted by foreign control both at Peking and in the provinces," and for having expressed the hope that Her Majesty's Government would not hesitate to undertake the task of reforming the native administration. Our correspondent favours the policy of spheres of influence, which he contends will settle the China question naturally. There can be no doubt as to the growth of spheres of influence in China, nor is the circumstance one that should occasion regret, but in allocating and demarcating the spheres we claim that the Chinese capital, whether it remain at Peking or be transferred to some other city, should be recognised as falling within the British sphere, and that Great Britain's duty to herself, to China, and to humanity renders it incumbent upon her to undertake the work of reforming the native administration. In carrying out this beneficent work she would naturally use all available native means and lead rather than drive, in so far as leading might be found possible, but whether by leading or driving the work of reformation should be vigorously carried on. As to what the other Powers might say, that is not a consideration that should be allowed to count for very much. The best way would be to proceed on the old and well tried plan and "let them say on." The other Powers already possessed of spheres of influence might find enough to occupy their attention there, and those not possessed of spheres would have no right to interfere.

The master of the German steamer *Deuteros* reports that on the 23rd June when passing about 6 miles to the westward of North Reef (Paracels) he noticed five distinct lumps, apparently wrecks, on the reef.

#### ENGLAND'S DUTY IN CHINA.

(Daily Press 29th June.)

The *Spectator* welcomes the appearance of Lord CHARLES BERESFORD's book on China because it raises a fair and square issue and brings out clearly the two opposing policies in China—the policy of maintaining the integrity and independence of the Chinese Empire, and the policy of refusing to attempt to bolster up an Empire which is certainly decayed and decaying, and which possibly is rotten beyond the power of reform from inside. Our contemporary endorses the latter policy, its argument being that the maintenance of the integrity and independence of China involves the reorganisation of the Empire under English domination and control after the precedent of Egypt, and that though the United Kingdom has a broad back it is not broad enough to bear such a burden as that. Here we have, as the *Spectator* says, a fair and square issue. It is an issue that has been before the world for many years past, and especially since the China-Japan war, but it has unfortunately been obscured by meaningless talk about the "open door," a catch phrase having no objective reality. The door in China is not open, and to talk of keeping it open when it is in fact closed is absurd.

There can be no open door for foreign trade in China until there is security for capital and freedom for commercial enterprise. Are we to wait for this until the Empire breaks up and the pieces fall under the domination of the respective Powers, or shall Great Britain repeat in China what she has accomplished in Egypt? The latter would no doubt be a stupendous task, but it is not beyond Great Britain's power. The spheres of influence already established would have to be recognised—the Russian sphere in Manchuria and the German sphere in Shantung—and claims by other Powers might call for consideration, but the recognition of spheres need not constitute an insuperable obstacle to the reform of the Chinese administration. In this connection we would recall to the attention of our readers the "Memorandum upon the present conditions of foreign trade in China" issued by the Shanghai Branch of the China Association under date of 23rd January of the present year. Having set out the reasons for the slow progress made in the development of foreign trade with China, the memorandum goes on to say that "if China is to be saved, she will have to be saved in spite of her Government; Great Britain cannot look for any assistance from that quarter, on the contrary she must be prepared to meet with sullen opposition from those whom she would succour;" and, further:—"We say, then, that the one thing wanted for the development of trade, for the protection of capital, and for the expansion of enterprise in China, is security, and we say that such security must be sought in fiscal and administrative reform of the country, which can only be effected through pressure from without, and we further say that the vast preponderance of British interests in China clearly demand that Great Britain shall lead and guide the movement. . . . We do not wish to concern ourselves with any imperfectly understood catch phrases such as 'open door' or 'sphere of influence' further than to say that Great Britain's sphere of influence should be wherever British trade preponderates, with the open door for equal trading opportunity to all; this is an ideal



"which can never be reached without resolute determination on the part of the British Cabinet to lead and not to follow in Peking."

These quotations embody what we believe to be the reply of British opinion in China upon the fair and square issue raised by Lord CHARLES BERSFORD and the *Spectator*. Spheres of influence or no spheres, the work of reforming the Chinese administration should be proceeded with at once. While the natural expansion of trade is being impeded by illegal exactions and oppressive restrictions it is cold comfort to reflect, as suggested by the *Spectator*, that if China breaks up we have "provided for our commercial interests" by securing the residuary right to the Yangtze Valley. British traders cannot be satisfied with such a shadowy prospect; they want China as a whole opened up. To secure that it is necessary that Great Britain should lead and not follow in Peking, and, furthermore, that she should exert effective pressure there. If other Powers are willing to co-operate, well and good, but Great Britain cannot afford to stand waiting for them; if they are unwilling to co-operate Great Britain must undertake the task alone.

#### THE PROPOSED RETROCESSION OF SHAMCHUN.

(Daily Press, 24th June.)

The reported intention of Her Majesty's Government to retrocede Shamchun to China has excited feelings of the strongest indignation and disgust in Hongkong. The opposition offered by the Chinese to the taking over of the New Territory, the employment of the military, and the plot to fire upon the European community of Hongkong when they should be assembled to witness the ceremony of hoisting the flag, constituted such an abominable outrage that the occupation of Kowloon city and Shamchun was deemed a very light and inadequate punishment. Kowloon city is to be retained, but it appears to be the fact that negotiations are in progress with reference to the retrocession of Shamchun, a monetary indemnity to be accepted in exchange, the amount of the indemnity being given as \$93,000. What does it mean? The local Government, we believe, has no hand in the matter, the negotiations being conducted between London and Peking independently of Hongkong. The public, however, will naturally look to Sir HENRY BLAKE to do his utmost, in the way of protest and representation, to stop the transaction ere it is too late, and the duty is also incumbent upon the China Association and Chamber of Commerce to use their best endeavours towards the same end. The town of Shamchun is still occupied by British troops and so long as that is the case there may yet be time to prevent the false step said to be in contemplation.

If unfortunately, despite the local protests, it should be decided to hand Shamchun back to China we must suppose that something much more important than filthy lucre will be exacted in exchange. In any case, whether Shamchun be retained or not, it would be right to make China pay the cost of the military operations which the treachery of her officials rendered necessary, and if the town is to be given up it must be assumed that the compensation to be exacted will take the shape of substantial reforms and the extension of commercial privileges in China. It may be that the home Government, having in view their repeated declaration that Great Britain does not desire the acquisition

of territory in China, and the quasi-pledges that have been given to assist in maintaining the country's integrity, may have discerned Imperial interests in favour of not retaining Shamchun which outweigh the local interests in the other scale, and in that case, disagreeable as the business is, Hongkong will have to accept the position. But having the town in actual military occupation, and assuming its retrocession to be decided upon, it would be neglecting a golden opportunity if Lord SALISBURY failed to impose as one of the conditions of evacuation the inauguration of reforms in the administrative system of China and a correction of those fiscal abuses which exercise such a retarding influence upon the growth of foreign trade. If the town is to be given up, we hope it will not be given up for nothing, or for a mere pecuniary consideration. We would prefer, however, to see the British flag remain where it has been planted and the necessary reforms in China enforced independently of any question of the retrocession of territory that has once been occupied.

(Daily Press, 30th June.)

The principal and most obvious objection to restoring the town of Shamchun to China is that such restoration would be construed by all the officials in Kwangtung into a confession of weakness and be so represented, with much extravagant embellishment, to the people. Shamchun is a small, dirty, malodorous, and exceedingly commonplace Chinese town, and it is neither a centre of trade nor a seat of learning. Far indeed from either. It is valueless in itself, and its retention alone will not greatly improve the British position on the frontier, as there would still be the neighbouring more important town of Namtaw to be reckoned with. What is really wanted to make the northern boundary-line satisfactory and workable is to carry it up to the line of hills at the back of Shamchun, and this would then include Namtaw. The extent of territory included is small and unimportant, but it would give Hongkong the entire district and a natural frontier much easier of defence and would leave no centre of population on the border, a most distinct advantage to both parties. The British Government may, without any shadow of appearance of greed, well ask for this variation of frontier, together with the costs of clearing out the rioters who swarmed into the Territory, in April last, at the instigation of the gentry in the neighbouring prefecture, and caused so much annoyance. The actual loss to Great Britain through this attempt to render the occupation of the leased territory a fiasco was of course insignificant, but the trouble, delay, and the loss caused to well affected natives (who were plundered, three being also murdered) was serious and ought to be amply atoned for as it was all so entirely gratuitous. We trust therefore that Shamchun will not be surrendered, but that the frontier will be put back to the natural boundary, namely, the line of hills ending in the southwest close outside Namtaw. This settlement would be ultimately most satisfactory to both the Hongkong and the Kwangtung Governments.

Mr. R. C. Wilcox, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, informs us that the following has been communicated to the Chamber by the Government:—The Government have received a despatch from the Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements, dated 15th June, forwarding copy of a Government notification of the 14th idem, declaring Penang to be infected on account of bubonic plague and imposing a quarantine of nine days on arrivals from that port.

#### THE POLICING OF THE TERRITORY.

(Daily Press, 30th June.)

The reply given by the Government to the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD's question relative to the strength of the Police Force and the policing of the New Territory shows that the provision made for the latter consists of 75 Indian and 53 Chinese Police. We understand also that it is intended to erect a number of Police Stations to accommodate this considerable force. So far as numbers go, the provision seems ample enough, but we should have preferred to see a force composed of 25 Europeans and 50 Indians and no Chinese. The lukongs will be a special source of weakness in the New Territory, where they will find play for the exercise of their peculiar talent for squeezing, and they are as likely as not to be in league with banditti across the frontier. The lukongs in the island of Pongkong have always been chiefly distinguished for their utter worthlessness, and why the Government will persist in cumbering the force with so many inefficients we never could understand. Even now, when it is obvious that the Police in the New Territory must form part of its garrison, the Authorities cannot apparently refrain from weakening the force by recruiting from the very class who give most trouble. There is really no necessity for a very large Police Force in the New Territory so long as a garrison is maintained there, and it is, we believe, admitted by the Military Authorities that part of the Hongkong Regiment, or of some other battalion, should be stationed permanently in barracks near the new frontier, with several posts at intervals along its length. What is really wanted is a smaller but thoroughly active and efficient Police Force, with a good percentage of intelligent and trained English constables to watch over the communities, preserving order, preventing crime, and a military force to see that the territory is not invaded by banditti from the Chinese side. In Tonkin the Police are confined strictly to policing the towns and are few in number. The task of hunting down pirates (as they are called there) is left entirely to the military. Much the same system is followed, we believe, in Burmah, where the dacoits were wiped out by bodies of soldiery kept on the move, who did their work much more thoroughly than has been the case in Tonkin, owing largely to the extensive employment, in the latter country, of the natives, who cannot be depended on to any great extent. In the rural districts of Ceylon there are few police, but circumstances in that island are certainly different, there being no adjoining country to which criminals can fly for shelter, or from whence they can come to make raids, as in our New Territory, Tonkin, and, in a lesser degree, in Burmah. In the Malay States dependence is placed upon the Police, but the Force there is on quite a different footing, the Perak Sikhs being almost as effective a body, from a military point of view, as the Hongkong Regiment. It is therefore pretty obvious that the protection of the Kowloon New Territory should mainly devolve on the Garrison, and this ought to be increased for the purpose. Perhaps the simplest plan for effecting this would be the authorisation of a second battalion to the Hongkong Regiment, or the formation of a new one to be called the Kowloon Regiment. It is in contemplation, we believe, to augment the Garrison of this Colony, but the Indian portion of the new contingent should be raised without delay. We do not want the reproach, later on, of being unable to main-



tain order and guarantee the protection of life and property in the new districts over which we have assumed jurisdiction, and it will be well, therefore, for some time at least, to maintain a sufficient military force there to render raids impracticable and the open expression of hostility from within impossible.

## THE MISSIONARY DISTURBANCE NEAR FOCHOW.

### DETAILS OF THE OUTBREAK.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] Fochow, 23rd June.

Details of the disturbance at Kienning and Kienyang have now been received. Early on Wednesday, 14th June, a mob of several hundred armed countrymen arrived at Kienning city bringing with them five men as prisoners whom they accused of procuring children for the missionaries, to be killed and portions of their bodies used for medicine. The mob waited on the city elders, who advised them to go to the Yamen. The first Yamen told them to go about their business, but the second Yamen took the prisoners into custody. The mob insisted on the instant decapitation of the prisoners, threatening that if their demand was not complied with they would destroy the Mission property.

On Thursday the mob burnt the Church at Kienning, the dispensary, and the leper station, and murdered a leper Christian, whose body they threw into a well. They then found an old man who had in his possession forty dollars and a knife. This was taken as proof positive of the man's complicity in the abduction and mutilation of girls. The money was really his daughter's dowry and he had the knife for his protection. The mob brutally beat the old man, then carried him to the river side, beat his brains out with a stone, and threw the body into the river, where they continued to pelt it with stones until it finally disappeared. Heavy rain stopped further violence.

The mob went back to the Yamen and again demanded the decapitation of the prisoners. The Mandarin said there was no proof that the men had committed any offence, but he decapitated one man and gave the mob fifty dollars and light refreshments.

The mob then dispersed some of the rioters going to the hospital, which they looted, but the building itself was not injured. One or two heathens were killed in the riot.

News of the disturbance arrived at Kienyang at daylight on Friday. Mr. Phillips' cook at once prepared to leave for Fochow, and Mr. Phillips went to the Yamen for consultation and advice. The Mandarin sheltered Mr. and Mrs. Phillips and Miss Sears and sealed the house.

Next day (Saturday) all was quiet. An inventory was taken of the contents of Mr. Phillips' house. Mr. Phillips thought the party might escape through Kiangsi and reach Shanghai by the Yangtze, but the Mandarin advised him to stay where he was.

On Saturday night Dr. Rigg started down the river (from Kienning).

On Monday Mr. Phillips and party started down the river. The Kienyang Magistrate acted well and rendered valuable assistance.

A fortnight ago placards were posted urging the murder of all foreigners and native Christians and the destruction of the mission property. A new room which has been added to the house was alleged to conceal the entrance to a cave where the bodies of murdered girls were disposed of. The leading gentry were invited to inspect the room, and all the Kienyang civil and military officials made an inspection were satisfied with what they saw, and published an emphatic denial of the absurd rumours that were in circulation.

On Tuesday a couple of coolies were engaged in unloading fish when they slipped off the plank and fell into the water. One of them got out but the other was drowned.

## BRIGAND OUTRAGE IN MANCHURIA.

### RUSSIAN ENGINEERS AND COSACKS KILLED.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] SHANGHAI, 24th June.  
Brigands near Kirin have killed two Russian engineers and ten Cossacks.

## OUTRAGE ON GERMAN ENGINEERS IN SHANTUNG.

### GERMAN TROOPS TO THE RESCUE.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] SHANGHAI, 25th June.

Mr. Hildebrandt, engineer, and two surveyors, engaged on the railway works, have been carried off by Chinese from Kiaochan.

The first company of the Seebattalion has gone to the rescue.

## ANTI-FOREIGN DISTURBANCE AT MENG TZU.

### THE FRENCH CONSULATE AND CUSTOMS BUILDINGS ATTACKED.

Telegraphic intelligence has been received of an anti-foreign riot at Mengtzu. The residences of the Commissioner and Customs Assistants were burnt by an armed band and the outdoor staff quarters and the French Consulate were plundered, but fortunately all the foreigners escaped and are reported safe. The affair occurred early on the morning of the 22nd June.

The French Consul at Mengtzu is M. Dejean de la Batie, the other officers of the Consulate whose names are given in the Directory being M. F. Angoulvant, interpreter, and Dr. Raygondaud, medical officer. The I.M. Customs staff consists of Mr. W. F. Spinney, Commissioner; Mr. H. F. V. Oldham, assistant; Mr. E. Milhe, chief examiner; and Mr. A. Millar, tide-waiter. We believe Mrs. Spinney was with her husband.

## HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On the 27th June a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police.)

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer.)

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works.)

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils.)

THE HON. J. J. KESWICK TAKES THE OATH.

The Hon. J. J. KESWICK took the oath as a member of the Council.

PAPER.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL laid on the table a report on the health and sanitary condition of the Colony of Hongkong for 1898.

PETITION.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—A petition with reference to piers and wharves has been sent in to be laid on the table.

THE HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD'S QUESTIONS.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I rise to ask the questions standing in my name.

The questions were as follows:—

1.—Will the Government lay upon the table a statement of the amount expended by the Public Works Department for repairs and alterations to "Beaconsfield" and of the re-

payments made by the owner of the building in respect of the former; also state for the information of the Council under what authority this expenditure has been disbursed?

2.—Will the Government lay upon the table a statement of the total expenditure payable out of the Colonial Treasury in connection with the preparations for and the occupation of the Colony's new territory leased by China to Great Britain per the Convention of 30th June, 1898?

3.—What steps have the Government taken to bring the Police Force up to its full strength as authorised by Ordinance, and are the Government prepared to introduce an Ordinance sanctioning the increase of the force to a strength sufficient for the adequate policing of the colony's new territory?

4.—Will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the correspondence which passed between the British Government and the Imperial Government of China and the Colonial Government on the subject of the arrangements to be made in accordance with the Convention of 20th June, 1898, for the better protection of the Chinese revenue from loss by the smuggling of opium from Hongkong into China?

5.—Are the Government prepared to introduce a Bill to amend the Women and Girls Protection Ordinance on similar lines, so far as circumstances permit, to those embodied in an "Ordinance to amend the Women and Girls Protection Ordinance, 1896," read a first time in the Singapore Legislative Council on Tuesday, 13th instant—the outcome of correspondence between the Straits Government, the Straits Settlements Association, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies; and if not, will the Government inform the Council of the cause of the delay?

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The answer to the first question put by the honourable gentleman is, payments to contractors \$11,200, Mr. Bellios's legal expenses \$5,100.25, A. Hok's expenses \$4,251.45. Total \$20,551.70. Refunded by Mr. Bellios \$1,425. Sale of old material \$50—\$1475.00. Balance \$19,076.70. The answer to the second question is, this amount cannot yet be ascertained. The answer to the third question is, by the power conferred on the Governor by section 5 of Ordinance No. 14 of 1887, the strength of the Police Force has been increased by 75 Indian Police and 53 Chinese Police, over and above the strength provided by Ordinance, to provide for the requirements of the new territory. Steps are being taken to further increase the Force to enable the opening, as they are built, of additional Police Stations in the new territory to those already occupied. Such increase can be made under section 5 of the existing Ordinance and a new Ordinance is not necessary for the purpose. The answer to the fourth question is, the correspondence is laid on the table. (The type written copy is laid on the table pending printed copies coming from the printers.) The answer to the fifth question is, an identical despatch with that addressed to the Government of the Straits Settlements was received here on the 9th June, 1899, and steps are being taken to embody its suggestions in a Bill that will be submitted to Council with the least possible delay.

THE HON. E. R. BELLIOS'S QUESTIONS.

The Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—I beg to ask the questions standing in my name.

The questions were as follows:—

1.—Will the Government state whether or not there has been any change, improvement, or progress in the mode of treatment of the plague patients in the Colonial Hospitals since the disease appeared in epidemic form in 1894?

2.—As the proportion of deaths to cases is larger here than in India, where considerable progress in treating the disease has been made, why has not constant (say, weekly) communication been opened with the Indian Government for the purpose of securing the latest information as to treatment of patients?

3.—If no such communication has been attempted, will the Government take steps to secure it without further delay?

4.—Does the Government supply the medical staff at the hospitals with all the necessary instruments (such as microscopes, &c.) for the purpose of diagnosing cases when first presented? If not, will the Government take steps to procure all the needful appliances for the conduct of medical investigations without delay?



**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—The answer to the first question put by the honourable member is that the various new remedies have been tried but without any appreciable success. A supply of Haffkine's prophylactic serum, which is the only one that appears to have been a success, was obtained from India some weeks ago, but the Chinese do not avail themselves of the opportunity of being protected from the disease. The answer to the second question is, the proportionate mortality in this Colony and India is about the same. Here in the epidemic of 1894 it was 93.4 per cent; in 1898 it was 81.79. The Government Medical Officers are in constant receipt of the latest Medical information on the subject. The answer to the third question is, such communication is not necessary. The answer to the fourth question is No. The microscope in use hitherto is the one presented to Dr. Lowson by the Japan Government and lent by him. The question of procuring microscopes is receiving attention.

#### NATURALISATION.

On the motion of the **ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL** seconded by the **COLONIAL TREASURER**, the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the naturalisation of Wong Ping Lam, alias Wong U Kai was passed.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—I beg to move the second reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the naturalisation of Tsoi Yen-shan. Hon. members will see from the preamble to the Bill that Mr. Tsoi Yen-shan is a native of the village of Sheung Chak in the province of Kwangtung, in the empire of China, is now employed as a clerk in the Registrar-General's Office, Victoria, in this Colony, and has resided in this Colony for the last four years, and has declared his intention of residing here permanently.

**THE COLONIAL TREASURER** seconded and the motion was carried.

On the Bill being considered in committee.

**The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD** said—I observe that a clause which appears in other ordinances of a similar nature, namely, "And is possessed of landed property in this colony," is omitted from the Bill. I should like to know what the Secretary of State's instructions are with reference to the naturalisation of Chinese or other foreigners.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—There is no necessary land qualification.

**The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD**—Can you state what the instructions of the Secretary of State are?

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—I do not think any definite instructions have been laid down. It has been laid down generally that a man should have an intention to reside here permanently; that he should have been here some years, and be of good conduct.

**The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD**—On reading the Bill over the clause about "possessed of landed property" being inserted in one Ordinance and omitted from another struck me.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—As a rule we do put in the clause about a man being the of possessor landed property.

On the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed.

On the motion of the **ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**, seconded by the **COLONIAL TREASURER**, the Bill entitled an Ordinance for the naturalization of Fan Nang, alias Fan Sau, alias Fan Pat Shan, alias Fan Tun Shin, was read a second time.

The Bill having been considered in committee, it was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the **ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**, seconded by the **COLONIAL TREASURER**.

#### THE PIERS ORDINANCE, 1899.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—I do not propose to proceed to-day with the second reading of the Bill entitled the Piers Ordinance, 1899. Certain facts with reference to this Bill have been laid before me, and I have not had full time to consider those facts, and therefore I do not propose to proceed with the second reading to-day.

#### THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—I beg to propose the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1887. Hon. members will see from the Bill that it proposes to amend

section 70 of Ordinance 24 of 1887. I will read that section to the Council, and then they will comprehend the meaning of this amendment. The section says:—"If any tenement house, or domestic building, or portion thereof, shall be found to be in an overcrowded condition the Board shall by a written notice require the tenant of the same, or any portion thereof, and also, if necessary, the householder, to abate such overcrowding, within a period of one calendar month; such notice shall specify the cubic capacity available for habitation in such tenement house, or other domestic building, and the number of persons which may be legally accommodated therein. If the said notice be not obeyed it shall be lawful for the said Board to apply to a Magistrate, who on sufficient cause shewn, shall summon before him the tenant or occupier of such dwelling house, or such householder. If the person summoned admits, or if it be proved, to the satisfaction of the said Magistrate that the said house is overcrowded, the Magistrate shall make an order for the abatement of the nuisance forthwith. On the hearing of the said matter the Magistrate may make such order for the inspection, at any hour of the night or day, of the said house, as the circumstances of the case may require. Such order to continue in force for a period not exceeding one month."

Hon. members will see from that section that a month's notice is to be given to the tenant of the house which is overcrowded, and if it is found that by the time the month's notice is up the tenant has left the house, no legal proceedings can be taken under this section. To remedy this it is proposed to substitute the words "one week" in place of the words "one calendar month" in the first paragraph of that section.

**THE COLONIAL TREASURER** seconded and the motion was carried.

The Council having considered the Bill in committee, it was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the **ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**, seconded by the **COLONIAL TREASURER**.

#### THE ARMS CONSOLIDATION ORDINANCE.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—I do not propose to proceed at this Council meeting with the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Arms Consolidation Ordinance, 1895. It has been represented to me that to increase the fee to \$1,200 per annum might possibly weigh heavily on some small retail dealers and I should like to have more information on the question and to consider the point further before moving the second reading.

**The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD**—It was my intention to have moved the adjournment of the consideration of this Bill for a month, and to direct the Council's attention to what took place in connection with this question in Council.

**HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR**—The honourable member has nothing before the Council.

**The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD**—Well, sir, I desire only to repeat what your predecessor said in this Council on the subject in April, 1896. He said:—"Gentlemen, the second item on the agenda paper is the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the carriage and possession of arms and ammunition. I propose to withdraw that Ordinance from the list. It is a very delicate and a very difficult question and requires to be very carefully dealt with. You have seen from the newspapers that there has been an abnormal exportation of arms from the colony to Macao and probably to Canton, and I shall be very much obliged to the unofficial members if they will kindly act on a Committee to report to me on the subject. I propose that the Attorney-General, the Harbour Master, and Commander Hastings represent the officials, and I shall be obliged if Mr. Chater, Dr. Ho Kai, and Mr. Whitehead will agree to serve on the unofficial side to furnish a report and see what it is proper to do to supervise the exportation of arms and ammunition." The unofficial members named signified their willingness to serve on the Committee, and His Excellency thanked them.

**HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR**—I am afraid I cannot allow the hon. member to go any further. The Attorney-General is not proceeding with the Bill at present, and therefore there is no question.

**The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD**—I was only going to suggest that the evidence which that Committee took and the report of the Committee should be printed and furnished to the members. The Committee sat for a considerable time, took a considerable amount of evidence and a great deal of trouble in the matter.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—Did they ever draw up a report? I am not sure.

**THE CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE**—The committee never did report.

**The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD**—The Hon. Attorney-General was chairman of the committee, and if no report was sent in he must have had good reason for the omission.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—We came to the conclusion that the committee could not do anything, and we resolved to do nothing.

**The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD**—The evidence, I think, might be printed.

#### THE LIQUOR LICENSES ORDINANCE.

On the motion of the **ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**, seconded by the **COLONIAL TREASURER**, the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Liquor Licenses Ordinance, 1898, passed the second reading.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—I shall propose that we go into committee on this Bill at the next meeting of the Council.

#### THE CATTLE DISEASES, ETC., ORDINANCE.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL**—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Cattle Diseases, Slaughter Houses, and Markets Ordinance. It will be seen from the objects and reasons of the Bill printed at the foot that the object of section 2 of the Bill is to reduce the maximum amount payable by the Government of this colony as compensation for slaughtered cattle, it having been found that the sums recently paid as compensation have reached a very considerable total. I may mention that about \$14,000 has been paid as compensation since the beginning of this year. Sub-section 4 of section 3 of Ordinance 17 of 1887 provided that the maximum amount of compensation payable for each animal slaughtered should be \$50 only, but Ordinance 12 of 1890 raised the amount payable to \$200. It is proposed by this Bill to reduce the amount of compensation payable to \$100 per head. The object of the amendment mentioned in section 3 is to make it a punishable offence for any person to slaughter any animal or dress any carcass except within a proper slaughter-house, even though such animal or carcass may not be intended "for sale." The object of section 4 of the Bill is to make it a punishable offence to counterfeit or make use of or attempt to counterfeit or make use of the official stamp which is used to mark beef or mutton; and section 5 authorizes the destruction of any carcass of beef or mutton which does not bear the official stamp.

**The Hon. E. R. BELLIOS**—I ask you to postpone the consideration of this Bill for at least a month, as it would impose hardship upon the Mahomedan section of the community, who have been accustomed to slaughter sheep and goats whenever they want meat for their own use. To make it a penal offence to slaughter sheep or goats in their own houses would be a great hardship. Such a provision is not known in India. It is a common practice, especially during festival time, for men who have any means to slaughter sheep in their own houses.

**HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR**—I would suggest that this motion be seconded, and when the Bill goes into committee the point raised by the Hon. E. R. Bellios can be considered. I think it is a very proper point to bring before the Council. No doubt the Attorney-General will be glad to consider in the meantime any suggestions which the hon. gentleman may make to him.

**THE COLONIAL TREASURER** seconded the motion, for the second reading which was passed.

**THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL** stated that he would move at the next meeting that Council go into Committee on the Bill.

#### APPROPRIATION.

**THE COLONIAL TREASURER**—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorise the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of three hundred and eight thousand six hundred and seventy-two dollars and eighty-seven cents, to defray the



charges of the year 1898. Excluding the consideration of loan account, the actual excess of the expenditure over estimate is \$209,000, but owing to the method of accounting the sum now required to be sanctioned is nearly one lakh more. The chief excesses in detail are on account of additional pensions, salaries paid in England, Post Office charges, compensation which was under-estimated, plague, and some items under Public Works Extraordinary. At the same time, however, that the expenditure increased by \$29,000 the revenue for 1898 exceeded that estimated by \$228,000, and the balance of assets on 31st December was \$90,000. The balance of revenue over expenditure and of assets over liabilities would have been greater by \$57,000, had they not been what may be described as fictitiously diminished owing to excess purchase of stores. I shall be happy to answer any questions.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded and the motion was carried.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, seconded by the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, the consideration of the Bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

The Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—While on this subject may I respectfully suggest that when the next estimate is being considered a little more care be taken to place as near as possible the exact figure before the Council. These Supplementary Appropriation Bills generally come in the year after, and in a small colony like ours the sum mentioned is rather large. It is more than 10 per cent. on the revenue.

The COLONIAL TREASURER reminded the hon. gentleman that the revenue, which is estimated at the same time as the expenditure, had increased by more.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—May I suggest that the hon. member and the Colonial Treasurer fight the matter out in the Finance Committee? (Laughter.)

#### THE LAWS RELATING TO MERCHANT SHIPPING.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL—The next item has been put down by inadvertence as the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Merchant Shipping, the duties of the Harbour Master, the control and management of the waters of the Colony, and the regulation of vessels navigating the same. As a matter of fact, sir, this Bill was read a second time and referred to the Law Committee on the 13th Feb., and the Law Committee have been suspending their labours until such time as the Chamber of Commerce sent in their suggestions which they have done recently. With regard to the Law Committee I have to ask your Excellency to appoint a member in the place of the Hon. J. J. Bell Irving, who is absent from the Colony.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR invited the Hon. J. J. Keswick to take the position, an invitation which was accepted.

ADJOURNED.

The Council adjourned sine die.

#### SUPREME COURT.

23rd June.

#### CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE)

#### THE ARMED ROBBERY AT YAUMATI—SENTENCE.

Fan Chung, Pun Tit, and Tsang Man, who were concerned in an armed robbery at Yaumati, came up for sentence.

His Lordship said—You three men were yesterday found guilty of being concerned in an armed robbery at a house at Yaumati, on the night of the 30th May, 1899. Possibly I am justified in making some distinction between your case and the robbery at Lantau, because you did not use your firearms as the Lantau robbers did, and no one was much hurt by you. I cannot, however, help feeling that it was probably only owing to the fact that your victims allowed themselves to be gagged and tied up,

without offering much resistance, that no serious bodily injury was inflicted upon them. Your ringleader has committed suicide in gaol, and I think he led you into this crime. But I must sentence you severally to imprisonment, with hard labour, for the term of five years, and order you each to receive twenty strokes with the birch within the first week of your imprisonment.

#### THE MUTUAL STORE EMBEZZLEMENT CASE.

Reginald George Hopkins was charged that he did embezzle the sum of \$2,159.64 the moneys of the co-partnership in the Mutual Store. He pleaded not guilty.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. Carl Marie Teesing, James Beattie, S. F. X. de Rozairo Prima, Leopold Shintz, S. J. Michael, H. E. Kroll, and E. Boeck.

The Acting-Attorney General (the Hon. H. E. Pollock), instructed by Mr. Hastings, prosecuted. In opening the case he said prisoner was charged on three different counts. In the first count he was charged with being a member of the co-partnership carrying on business under the name of the Mutual Store, and while being a member of that co-partnership stealing certain moneys, namely \$1,059.63 on the 18th of March of this year. The second count was that he stole on the 21st of March of this year \$1,000, the property of himself and co-partners in the Mutual Store; and the third count was that on the 22nd of March of this year he stole \$100, the property of himself and his co-partners in the Mutual Store. The case for the prosecution would be that in the year 1898 prisoner started business with three Chinamen as co-partners under the style of the Mutual Store. It would appear that prisoner had had previously to this date some business experience in Hongkong, and he persuaded these three Chinamen that it would be a very good thing for them to go into partnership with him, and he told them—and it was a perfectly true statement—that he could get the agency for Liptons, and it would appear, so far as one could make out, that that agency here did a good business. Finally he persuaded these Chinamen to put up some \$15,000 or \$20,000 of capital, and the arrangement was that they were to get in the first instance 8 per cent. on their capital and after that 8 per cent. had been paid, half the profits were to go to prisoner and the other half to be divided amongst the three Chinamen in proportion to the amount of capital which they subscribed to the business. It was also part of the arrangement that prisoner should have the management of the business of the firm. That business was started as the Mutual Store in July of last year, and in the month of August, 1898, there was a banking account started in the Hongkong Bank, and prisoner was allowed to draw cheques upon the Bank with respect to the partnership and to meet the liability of the store in his own name, but in reality it was an account started only by the Mutual Store, and it was simply as a matter of convenience that he was permitted by his partners to draw cheques in his own name. The principal part of this business was this Lipton's Agency. It appears that Liptons had a contract with the Admiralty to supply the ships out here with stores of various kinds. Some of these stores were sent out from Liptons consigned to the Mutual Store here, and as far as these stores were concerned it was not necessary that prisoner and his partners should draw any money to disburse themselves, because these stores would be paid for by the Admiralty in London; but as regarded the perishable stores supplied to the ships the course of business was this: prisoner was authorised to re-inburse himself and his partners in this way, that he was allowed to draw upon Liptons in sterling on London and these bills he sold locally. Of course afterwards vouchers were sent home, and Liptons recovered the money ultimately in London. On the 17th March in this year Hopkins sold one of these sterling bills on London for £203 5s. 8d. sterling to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for \$2,059.64. On the 18th of March Hopkins drew a bearer cheque for \$1,059.64. On the 21st March he drew a further cheque for \$1,000. Therefore the jury would see that these two totalled up to the sum for which Hopkins sold this bill for £203 5s. 8d. sterling on London.

On the 22nd March prisoner drew a cheque for \$100 made payable to bearer, and on the 22nd March or 23rd March he left the colony for Shanghai without any previous communication with his partners. The jury might think it an important bit of evidence as bearing upon Hopkins leaving the colony that the Mutual Store owed to a man called Sum U, who would be called as a witness, and who kept a compradore's shop in the colony, \$10,000. This man would tell them that on the 22nd of March he called upon prisoner at the office of the Mutual Store and asked him to pay this money. Prisoner said, "I will pay you at 2 p.m. to-day." The man returned to the Mutual Store at 2 p.m. but he found that prisoner was not there. He waited till 4 p.m. and still prisoner did not return. Then he made enquiries about prisoner, but the latter was not forthcoming, and it was found that either on that day or the following day prisoner went away to Shanghai. Proceedings were then instituted with the object of getting prisoner sent back from Shanghai, and Inspector Moffat was sent there and he brought prisoner back. The jury would see from the banking account that prisoner's practice was, when he was drawing cheques to pay customers for the Mutual Store, to put in the cheque the actual names of the people to whom the money was owing, and he would ask their attention to the fact that with regard to these three cheques that for \$1,059.64 was made payable to bearer, that for \$1,000 to himself or bearer, and that for \$100 to bearer. The counterparts were left blank. The cheques for \$1,059 and \$100 were cashed by Chinamen and that for \$1,000 by a European.

The evidence given at the Magistracy was proceeded with and the hearing was adjourned.

24th June.

The hearing was concluded in the afternoon, when the jury brought in a verdict of guilty. His Lordship deferred sentence.

26th June.

Reginald George Hopkins come up for sentence.

His Lordship said—You were found guilty on Saturday of having stolen three sums of money, amounting in all to \$2,159, the property of The Mutual Stores. You appropriated those sums at the time you were managing partner of the firm, and immediately afterwards you absconded, taking passage to Shanghai under an assumed name. You left the books in a muddle and three months behind date, and you left your partners to pay, as they were bound to do, the debts of the firm and to extricate the business from the difficulties and trouble in which you dishonestly had involved it. There is another information against you, but, as you have been convicted on the present charge, the Attorney-General has informed the Court that he does not intend to proceed with the other case against you. I have only to deal with the particular charges on which you were found guilty, and the sentence is that you be imprisoned with hard labour for the term of 18 calendar months. Technically, that is the sentence in each count, but, practically, that is the total sentence, because I direct the sentences to run concurrently.

During the hearing of the case a document was submitted in which prisoner, when endeavouring to induce others to join him in the Mutual Store venture, professed to demonstrate the certainty of the concern proving a paying one. In this statement the following passage occurred.

"Our London agent, who secured for us this desirable agency, writes: When Lipton once comprehends you are the right people he will do anything in reason; meanwhile you have to prove your work. 'Lipton' is a power to conjure with, and you will as their agents be well received by the Admiralty people. They authorise you to bribe and give bonuses to the various heads of departments up to 5 per cent. on any order and if you have to place £5, £10, or £20 in the right place do so; full discretionary power is allowed you. You will also be empowered to buy and supply stores not of Liptons which can be had cheap in Hongkong, the idea being that you must get into your hands all orders of the fleet and you will be backed



both tooth and nail by Liptons, if worked well there is a chance of getting into very close relations with Lipton and will probably end in your holding large free stocks for ordinary and Government consumption."

His Lordship, referring to this letter, said— I want to say that in my opinion that is a disreputable letter. If that is the way in which business is to be conducted and a man says "I authorise you to bribe and give bonuses to the various heads of departments up to 5 per cent. on any order, and if you have to place £5, £10, or £20 in the right place do so. Full discretionary power is allowed you." I wish to say publicly that in my opinion it is a very disgraceful way of doing business.

#### THE ARMED ROBBERY AT KOWLOON.

Tse Tai, Chu Lang, Li Chan, Mak Shui, and Ho Kwong were charged with committing an armed robbery at Kowloon. They pleaded not guilty.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. A. G. B. Soares, F. A. Jorge, F. E. Shuster, A. Mackenzie, Chan Teung Fat, W. J. Mayson, and R. Cook.

The Acting Attorney-General (the Hon. H. E. Pollock) said the five prisoners in this case were charged on two different counts, but these two different counts had reference to the same set of circumstances, and were only two different ways of charging the prisoners. In the first count the five prisoners were charged with robbery with arms and in the second count nothing was said about whether they had arms or not, but they were charged with committing this robbery. Complainant was the keeper of a temple called the Han On Temple outside the west gate of the walled city of Kowloon. At about half-past one on the morning of the 15th May the side door of the temple was broken open and these men entered. Complainant was then standing at the entrance of his room, and he was seized by these men and pressed downwards upon the ground, and at the same time he was threatened with knives. Then his hands were tied behind his back with a piece of rope, and there was also a piece of thorn tied over his mouth. Two of the men guarded him, one having his foot on his head and the other on his back. While these two were keeping guard over the temple-keeper the others burst open two boxes belonging to complainant and took certain things out of a box. It would appear that there was no light in this room at first, but the robbers lighted torches when they came in. Complainant would tell the jury he was not able to recognise any of the robbers. Of course that was only natural, because according to his account of the transaction he was kept pressed down on the floor, with his face downwards, but he thought they would find that one of the witnesses in the temple recognised second prisoner. Various articles were stolen from complainant on this occasion. Among other things he lost some trousers, two jackets, some leggings, and some cigarette papers, and a blanket. This part of the property had been recovered, the greater portion being found upon first prisoner a little over an hour after the robbery. The Acting Attorney-General connected the other prisoners with the robbery and then proceeded to call evidence.

The jury found first four prisoners guilty and the fifth not guilty.

His Lordship sentenced the former to five years' imprisonment, each of them to receive 20 strokes with the birch rod within a week of their sentence.

29th June.

#### SPECIAL CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.)

#### THE UN LOONG MURDERS.

Tang Ching Sz and Cheng Ting were charged with the wilful murder of Tung Cheong, at Un Loong, on April 18th.

The Acting Attorney-General, Hon. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Mr. Bowley, Acting Crown Solicitor) appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Slade for the defence.

The jury was composed of Messrs. Thomas Grimshaw, G. J. Casanova, C. S. Gubbay, A. R.

Riddle, R. Abesser, G. E. Huijgen, and A. Andrew.

Mr. J. Dyer Ball acted as interpreter.

When charged prisoners pleaded not guilty. His Lordship directed Mr. Ball to inform prisoners that as they had no one to defend them Mr. Slade had kindly come forward to do so, and that he had been furnished with a copy of the depositions. He presumed they wished Mr. Slade to act for them.

On this being translated to prisoners, first prisoner said, "Yes, I am pleased to have him," second prisoner, "I do not wish to have him." When the matter was further explained to him, however, he gave the same reply as the first prisoner.

The Acting Attorney-General said there would be another case to be tried at the special sessions. He did not know what day his lordship would fix for it.

His Lordship fixed Monday.

The Acting Attorney-General said prisoners were charged with the wilful murder of a man called Tung Cheong at Un Loong on the 18th April. It would be proved that the murdered man had had handed to him certain proclamations issued by the Governor with reference to the taking possession of the new territory. The evidence for the prosecution would show that on the 17th April, about four o'clock in the afternoon, a man named Ng Lung Cheung, who was one of the gentry at Un Toong, was asked by deceased to secure his release by communicating with certain people. The same evening, about eight o'clock, this man went with Chan Yung to see deceased, who was in the meeting house at Un Loong. At that time deceased had three chains on him—one round his neck, one on his hands, and one on his feet. The chains on the hands and feet were loose, but the one round the neck could not be taken off because it was locked and the key could not be found. This witness would tell the jury that some conversation took place between him and deceased, and that he gave deceased a dollar passage money to go to Hongkong. It would appear that this witness and Chan Yung were going along with deceased to the gate leading to Un Loong Market Place when they met first prisoner and told him they had freed Tung Cheong. First prisoner replied "Why did you free him so soon? He is an Ah Chuen man, and ought to have been handed over to the Ah Chuen elders." Witness said, "Better let him go here," to which first prisoner replied "If he is to be let go let me let him go," upon which witness handed deceased over to Chan Yung and went away. After that the evidence was resumed, by the evidence of two witnesses named Kwan Pui Chi and Li Chung. The former would tell the jury on hearing that five men had been arrested he went to see them. He found them in the Un Loong meeting house chained up in pig baskets. He knew two of these men—Tung Cheong and Chun Kwai Sui Tai. In the meeting house were eight or ten people, including prisoners. Something was said about engaging a boat, and after a boat had been engaged, another meeting was held in the gambling house. At that meeting first prisoner spoke against deceased, charging him with communicating with foreigners and selling his country, and again first prisoner said something about waiting till 12 o'clock when the water was high and doing for them. It would appear that somewhere about 12 o'clock Lam Pak To called in six Punti men, who took up the three men who were in the baskets, two having been released, and carried them to a creek. Their cries roused the suspicion of the men in the boat, and they cleared away without taking them. First prisoner then gave a revolver to second prisoner, who fired two shots at deceased but did not kill him. Then first prisoner said to second prisoner, "give me the revolver; let me shoot him," and taking the revolver first prisoner fired two shots at deceased and killed him. Mr. Pollock touched on the other evidence which would be adduced and then proceeded to call his witnesses.

The hearing had not concluded when the Court rose.

Under the New Arms Bill now before the Legislative Council the fee for a licence to import or deal in arms is raised from \$10 per annum to \$1,200.

#### THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE'S REMARKS IN THE HOPKINS CASE.

With reference to the remarks of the Acting Chief Justice, in the case of Regina v. Hopkins, with regard to the subject of "bribery," the facts are as follows:—

Hopkins, with a view to get Fung Koo Sau and some other Chinese to join him as partners and provide capital for the business to be called "The Mutual Stores" which he was promoting, gave to Fung Koo Sau a statement written by himself, which was put in evidence at the trial, pointing out the mode in which it was proposed to conduct the business and the reasons for assuming it would be successful and remunerative. In that statement with reference to Lipton's Agency appears the following:—

Our London Agents who secured for us this valuable agency write,

"When Lipton once comprehends you are the right people he will do anything in reason, meanwhile you have to prove your worth. Lipton is a power to conjure with and you will as their agents be well received by the Admiralty people. They authorise you to bribe and give bonuses to the various heads of departments up to 5 per cent. on any order and if you have to place £5, £10, or £20 in the right place so, full discretionary power is allowed you. You will also be empowered to buy and supply stores not of Lipton's which can be had cheap in Hongkong, the idea being that you must get into your hands all orders of the fleet and you will be backed both tooth and nail by Lipton. If worked well there is a chance of getting into very close relations with Lipton and will probably end in your holding large free stocks for ordinary and Government consumption."

It was with reference to the words "They authorise you to bribe and give bonuses to the various heads of departments, &c." that the Acting Chief Justice remarked that such a letter was discreditable to the writer and that such a mode of doing business was also discreditable.

His Honour did not say or imply that the Mutual Stores had availed themselves of the "authority" referred to in that letter, nor did he reflect upon the business carried on by those stores, with regard to the details of which no evidence was given.

#### THE UN LOONG MURDER.

#### EVIDENCE OF THE MURDERED MAN'S SON AND WIDOW.

At the Magistracy on the 23rd June, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Tang Tsing Sz and Cheong Ting were charged on remand with the murder of Tung Cheong at Un Loong in April last.

Captain Superintendent May conducted the prosecution.

Tung Po said he was a farmer and was the son of Tung Cheong, who lived at Ah Chuen. He knew defendants. The first defendant lived at Ah Chuen and was a village elder. Witness's father was dead. He last saw him alive on the 8th day of the third moon of this year. He saw him at the door of the Un Loong meeting house on that day. Witness had gone there to sell some eggs. His father's hands were tied up. He saw Tang Tsing Sz. He was leading a number of Triad Society men who held his father, Tang Tsing Sz recognised him and told the Triad men to catch him. Witness ran away and was not caught. He went home and told his mother, who went to Un Loong, and finally came back home. He saw men coming to search the house, and ran on to the roof. He had five brothers. They all escaped with him to another house, and his clansman stopped the search from being made. On the 9th day he heard that his father had been killed, and he went to search for the body. He searched every day till the 13th. He found the body on the 14th at San Pui Creek, about a li from Un Loong. He and a clansman pulled the body out. There was a chain round the neck, the hands were tied together in front, and the feet were tied together, one over the other. He saw two bullet holes in the right side and also one in the back. There were marks of blows on the body and a string was tied round the waist. The body was not in a pig basket, but one was fastened to him by a piece of string. The



chain round the neck was locked. He could recognise the features, and they were those of his father, Tung Cheong. He could also recognise some of the clothing as belonging to his father. He washed the mud off the body, untied the hands and feet, bought a coffin, and buried him. He could not take off the chain. The body was buried at the back of Un Loong, not quite a li from where the body was found.

Deceased's widow also gave evidence. She said that when she heard that her husband had been seized by men she went to Un Loong to ask the men to let her husband go. She was driven away from the meeting house and as the men wanted to arrest her she returned home. She also deposed to first defendant and others coming to search the house for her children and to the burial of the body.

The further hearing was adjourned.

24th June.

The following statements made by prisoners in the charge room were put in:—

Tung Tsing Sz said—That affair in connection with Tung Cheong has nothing to do with me. I do not know who caught him. Soon after 4 p.m. on the 17th April, Tang Chak Hing, who had had two piculs of gunpowder which he had bought from the Tung Kun pass boat carried away by the Un Loong people, compelled me to go to Un Loong to find Ng Sin Chi to get back the two piculs of gunpowder for Tang Chak Hing. Then Ng Sing Chi asked me if I would undertake to stand security for Tung Cheong Tsai. I put him off saying that I did not like to do with a matter that concerned the people generally. I know nothing whatever of what happened afterwards. When I heard on the 18th of April that Indian soldiers were coming to give battle I took away my family to Nam Tan. On the 21st of April Ng Lo Sam led people to burn the house of my daughter-in-law. On the 22nd of April they removed the goods of the Tung Fung shop to Ping Shan, and he told his people to sleep in the shop at night, when they, moreover, took away goods. Then I resolved to go back home, but, having no house to live in and nothing to eat, I was compelled to go to Canton and depend on relatives until His Honour should settle about the territory satisfactorily and I could return to my home. On the 30th of May people came to see me. I told them that either in the third decade of this moon or in the early part of next moon I must certainly go to Hongkong to plead my cause and show clearly the cause of the burning of my house. On the 15th of June it was said that one thousand dollars reward was offered for my arrest. I do not know what for. On the evening of 14th June I brought my wife and children down by the night steamer to Hongkong to report the matter to the Registrar General clearly, and ask His Honour the Registrar General to give me a place to live.

Cheung Ting said—I am employed as a cook in the Sing San shop at Un Loong. At 10 p.m. on that day three men, viz., Tang Ching Shi, Pui Chi, and Ng Ki Cheung, came to my shop. Tang Ching Shi asked me to get a light to go out to the wharf together with him. I saw Pui Chi had a revolver in his hand, and he shot a man dead with the revolver.

The prisoners were committed for trial.

In addition to Tung Cheong two other Chinamen suspected of being favourable to the British were murdered at Un Loong in April, and at the conclusion of the case against Tang Tsing Sz and Cheung Ting two other men—Ng Tong and Sui Tak Lat were charged with the murder of Chun Hing Tai otherwise Kwei Shui Tai. They pleaded not guilty.

Chief-detective Inspector Hanson having given evidence of arrest.

Chan Kwong Yeung, a farmer living at Un Loong, said first prisoner was one of the elders of Un Loong, and a Chinese B.A. Second prisoner was a nephew of first prisoner. He was a vegetable seller. He used to go out and in of the Sun Tai's yamen at Un Loong. On 17th April witness went to Ah Chuen to carry vegetables. He got there at 2.30 p.m. In the Ancestral Hall at Ah Chuen he saw a crowd. He saw Ng Ki Cheung and Lam Pak To and some others sitting there. They said "Why does Chun Kwei Shui Tai come into the Ancestral

Hall? Seize him and take him to the Un Loong meeting house." Lam Pak To and two Ah Chuen men then seized him. He was taken out of the Ancestral Hall. Witness followed them at a distance to Un Loong. At Sui Pin Wai, Ng Tong met the party and said "You have arrested Chun Kwei Shui Tai have you? Take him up." Ng Tong went back with the party to the Un Loong meeting house. At the door of the meeting house, witness saw Ng Loong tie Chun Kwei Shui Tai's hands up.

Chan On, a farmer at Nam Ping Loi, Un Loong, identified the three prisoners. He said he went to the meeting house at 3 p.m. 15th April, and saw a lot of people there. A Hakka had been arrested. On 16th April a man named Tung Kum Mui, of Castle Peak, was arrested. His hands and feet were tied. He was carried into the meeting house. On 17th April, he heard that Chun Kwei Shui Tai had been arrested. He was a nephew of the witness. Witness saw his nephew at the meeting house with his hands and feet tied. He saw another two prisoners. A few minutes later he went back and saw five men prisoners. About six o'clock Ng Ki Cheung came to witness's house and said "Will you bail out Chun Kwei Shui Tai?" Witness said "Very well?" Ng Ki Cheung then said "You're bailing him does not matter; you must stand guarantee for the whole clan that there will be nothing afterwards." Witness said "I dare not bail him," meaning he would not dare to guarantee the whole clan. Ng Ki Cheung sat in his house for some time and then said, "What then?" Witness said, "Do according to your intention." Tung Cheung Tz then came and said gunpowder had come; to-morrow morning there must be a fight. He told Ng Ki Cheung to come out and fix the three of them. After the 17th witness never saw his nephew alive again.

The case was again adjourned.

Another arrest has been made at Namtau in connection with the murders at Un Loong. The whole of the supposed principal participants in the murder have been arrested.

26th June.

Chan On, recalled, said that when Ng Ki Cheung said to him he must stand guarantee for the whole clan and he replied that he dare not do so he referred to the Ng clan. The previous day he went with the police to the river at Un Loong, and saw two pig baskets with dead bodies in them dug up. At the place where the bodies were dug up he saw a leather shoe dug up. It was the shoe produced, and he identified it as one of Chun Kwai Shui Tai's shoes, the man wearing such shoes when he last saw him. The man always wore such shoes.

Chan Tsing, a brickmaker living at Nam Pin Wai, at Un Loong, said he had a brick kiln at Tong Pak Ton, about three li from Nam Pin Wai. He had known first defendant all his life, and he had known second defendant since he was a boy. On the evening of the 8th day of the third moon second defendant came to his brick kiln about six o'clock. He said he was told to tell him to bail Chun Kwai Shui Tai. He accompanied him to the Un Loong meeting house. He intended to bail him. When they got to the door he stopped, and stayed outside with some others. Chang Tsing Sz called out "Do not bail him." Witness then went away. They said they were going to kill his clansmen, but so many men were there that he did not interfere. His clan was the Chung clan, but there were none of them in the meeting place, most of those present belonging to the Tung clan.

Kwan Pui Chi said he belonged to a shop at Un Loong where he had been living for four generations. He knew first defendant, who lived at Un Loong and was an elder. He also knew second defendant, who was a nephew of the first defendant. Third defendant was called Pui Tak Tap and was a runner in the Sun Tai place at Un Loong. He had known him for seven or eight years. On the 8th day of the third moon he went to the meeting house at Un Loong at about 7 p.m. because he heard that five men had been arrested and he wanted to see them. When he got there he saw them. He saw Chan Kwai Tsui Tai and Tung Cheong among them. He did not know the others. Each had a chain round his neck. He saw defendants there and they were talking about the men whom they had taken

prisoners, saying that they were not good men and were guilty of communicating with foreigners. He corroborated previous witnesses as to the mode in which the three men were murdered and described the part which defendants took in the proceedings.

Two more Chinamen gave corroborative evidence.

27th June.

Ng Ki Cheung, Ng Tang, and Liu Tak Lap were charged on remand with the murder of Chan Kwai Tsui Tai, at Un Loong, in April.

Captain Superintendent F. H. May conducted the prosecution.

Chief Detective Inspector Hanson gave evidence of the finding of the dead bodies in the two pig crates in the creek at Un Loong. He said on 25th inst. he went to Un Loong with Tung Po. They proceeded down the Un Loong river and Tung Po pointed out the place where he found his father's body. Witness had taken with him from Hongkong a number of undertaker's coolies. The coolies searched the creek on the right bank of the river. The mud was soft. The coolies slipped into the mud and groped about with their feet and legs. At last one coolie said "I have come on something; it is hard." Witness went into the water to see. The coolies took up two pig crates produced, in each of which was a dead body. Speaking of one of the crates, witness said it contained the body of a man with a loop chain round the neck of the body. The head of the body was at the closed end of the crate; the legs were drawn up. One end of the chain was fastened to the crate to prevent it getting loose. In taking out the crate witness saw a leather shoe taken out. In removing the body from the crate the head of the body fell off. The body was too decomposed for witness to notice any bullet wounds. The other dead body was removed from the crate, and witness caused the chain round the body to be broken in order not to mutilate the corpse. Two coffins were obtained and the bodies were buried. The place where the bodies were found was fifty yards from where the two witnesses Kwan Pui Chi and Li Yuen Tse stated the bodies were thrown into the river. The place was lower down the river. The creek was about one-third of a mile from Un Loong.

A Sergeant Interpreter at the Central Police Station put in the following statement by the prisoners:—

Ng Tung said—I did not do it. On the night of the 8th day of the third moon I was sitting at a friend's. After sitting there I went away. I passed the meeting house and saw Tang Tsing Sz, Kwan Pui Chi, Tam Pau Tan, and several coolies. I also saw Kwan Pui Chi and Tang Tsing Sz each holding a revolver. I asked the coolies, "What is the matter?" The coolies said, "Tang Tsing Sz has engaged us to carry some persons away to be killed." I at once returned to my house.

Lui Tak Lap said—I was hawking vegetables there. Tang Tsing Sz came into the temple and told me to hire a boat. I said, "There is no boat to be hired." He told me to go into the meeting house. I there saw five men in pig crates lying on the ground. Tang Tsing Sz told me to carry one to Wanchai landing place. Those gentry Tang Tsing Sz and Ng Ki Cheung threw them into the sea. I then took my bamboo and ran away. After I had walked away one change I heard two reports of firearms. The first defendant, the Sau Tsoi, and Tang Tsing Sz said they would give me several ten cent pieces as wages. All ran away at daylight next day. After thus carrying the two Sau Tsoi Tang Tsing Sz and Ng Ki Cheung promised me in the Po Tsz gambling house to give me several 10 cent pieces as wages.

Ng Ki Chung said—I did not murder Chan Hing Tai. Tang Tsing Sz was eager to see him die. The Chinese authorities offered a reward of \$250 to arrest Chan Hing Tai. After his arrest I intended to hand him over to the Chinese authorities. I had deposited \$250 with the Chinese authorities, and I got back the reward of \$250. Tang Tsing Sz's mind was over-conscious to murder Tung Cheung. Therefore he got the several men murdered together. If I had murdered Chan Hing Tai the deceased's relatives would prosecute me. The deceased's relatives say it was Tang Tsing Sz. If I wished Chan Hing Tai to die I could have sent him to



the Chinese authorities, who would have headed him, and I might have got back the reward of \$250, thus benefiting both parties, me and the Chinese authorities. Why should I myself do this?

His Worship informed prisoners that he proposed committing them for trial, and asked them if they had anything to say.

Ng Ki Cheung said—Lam Pak To arrested them. He killed him. I have nothing to do with it. They said that I said he was not a good man, but I was not the only man to say that. The whole of Un Loong said that he was not a good man. He has been in prison in China and in Hongkong. Very often he committed robbery and armed attacks. The Admiral Ho Cheung Ching offered a reward of \$250 for him. Documents were issued to me from the Admiral asking me to deliver up Chun Kwei Sui Chi. I handed the \$250 reward to the Mandarin. The Admiral asked all the clansmen and relatives—the Chan family and us—to get money ready. The rule in China is when a reward is offered any man can make an arrest. Lam Pak To was a constable at the Un Loong Sun Dai's place. When he was captured I told Lam Pak To to get back the \$250 reward I sent him to the Mandarin. Tung Cheung Sz intended to kill Cheung Chai. Therefore they were done together. When Ng Feung Ching saved Tung Cheung, if he had not met Tung Cheung Sz they would not have died. I heard cries of "save life" when I was sitting in an opium divan. I wanted to run to Lam Pak To to ask him to send Chun Kwei Sui Chai to the Mandarin. When I reached there Tung Cheung Sz had already given the order to shoot. Tung Cheung Sz said, "Why do you wish for the few hundred dollars so much?" If I had wanted to kill him I would not have asked his relatives to bail him out. Lam Pak To made the arrest. I did no wrong. The other prisoners made statements somewhat similar to those made by them when charged.

His Worship committed prisoners for trial on the charge of murder.

### HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3 p.m. on Monday, the 19th June. Present: Messrs. R. M. Gray (chairman), A. McConachie (vice-chairman), A. Haupt, Sir Thomas Jackson, Hon. J. J. Keswick, Messrs. W. Poate, H. A. Ritchie, N. A. Siebs, Hon. J. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (secretary).

#### MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting (held on 30th May) were read and confirmed.

#### NEW MEMBER OF COMMITTEE.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed the Hon. J. J. Keswick back again at that table.

Mr. KESWICK thanked the Committee for the welcome accorded to him.

#### NEW MEMBER.

The SECRETARY reported that Messrs. Banker & Co. had been admitted to membership of the Chamber since last meeting.

#### THE SYSTEM OF FINES FOR SMUGGLING AT SAIGON.

In accordance with the decision come to at last meeting, a further letter was on the 6th June addressed to the Government on this subject, bringing to their attention the case of the steamer *Ingraban* and replying to the query raised in the letter of the Colonial Secretary dated 19th May.

A letter having been received on the 7th June from the master of the steamer *Propontis* giving information of the recent fining of his ship at Saigon in the sum of \$5,000 owing to 263 fads of opium having been secreted on board.

Acknowledgment was made, stating that the matter had been laid before the Government, who were taking action thereon.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 16th June, stating that a draft Bill would be prepared to constitute concealment of opium on board a ship a penal offence, and that when

ready a copy of the Bill would be transmitted to the Chamber for consideration.

The CHAIRMAN said they could now only wait and see what effect would be produced by the representations of the Consul at Saigon. Meantime the Government here were preparing a Bill which it was hoped might be deterrent to persons attempting to smuggle from the Colony, though it seemed pretty certain that in most cases the drug was concealed on board after arrival at Saigon.

#### THE CANTON SUBSIDIARY COINAGE.

The SECRETARY reported that a reply on this subject had been sent to Mr. Grant Smith in the terms decided at last meeting.

The CHAIRMAN It is an unfortunate fact that the flooding of this Colony by the inferior small currency from the Canton Mint is undoubtedly of considerable public inconvenience, and to many a matter of pecuniary loss, but it seems very difficult at the moment to formulate a drastic remedy. The legal currency here is Mexican and British silver dollars and subsidiary coinage of the Hongkong Government, and the Government recognises on other coins in its receipts. At the present moment there is a very ample supply of Hongkong subsidiary coinage in the hands of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for the Treasury, which is only waiting to be applied for by the public themselves, who should decline to accept any but Hongkong's legal tender.

Sir THOMAS JACKSON said that as a matter of fact there was hardly any application now-a-days for the Hongkong subsidiary coins, and that the whole colony was overrun with the Canton coins. These coins were issued at a discount, and it paid interested parties to push them into circulation. Formerly there was a demand for Hongkong coins from the Northern ports, but now they are supplied with the produce of the native mints.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD said the Canton Government were in effect exploiting Hongkong's revenue by unfair means, and it was a question the Colonial Government should take up forthwith in self-defence.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN suggested that representations be made to Government to constitute it a penal offence to be found in possession of the Canton coins after a certain period (to be fixed), and that the Government should be asked to supply the Chamber with a copy of the Straits Ordinance recently passed to exclude the Japanese yen.

Some further discussion ensued on the subject, and it was decided to address the Government asking for a copy of the Ordinance passed at Singapore to deal with the Japanese yen, and to suggest that steps be taken to prevent the entry and circulation of Canton subsidiary coins into the Colony.

#### LEKIN AND FOREIGN TRADE ON THE WEST RIVER

The SECRETARY reported that a letter of acknowledgment had been forwarded, under date 1st June, to Mr. E. T. Snaggs, in reference to his case at Samshui.

Referring to this question,

The CHAIRMAN said—The inland navigation privileges which were launched with such a flourish of trumpets as a valuable concession to Foreign Powers, and which privileges were even held out as a bait to this Colony to allow the permanent establishment of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs in our midst, so far turn out to be comparatively valueless. We have the case of Mr. Snaggs at Samshui, which is in the hands of the British Consul at Canton, and I understand that the River Companies' steamers plying between Canton and Wuchow have suddenly been deprived of these privileges. I have before me the very valuable Consular Report on the Trade of Wuchow for 1893 by Mr. Hosie, in which he states:—"The inland waters of China were thrown open to steam navigation during 1898, but so far as the West River is concerned they are still practically closed, for the concession is hedged in by so many restrictions to preserve the revenue of the Imperial Maritime Customs, as to nullify the great benefits which an unrestricted opening would have conferred on the home or domestic trade of China." After which, Mr. Hosie proceeds to explain the situation, which is hardly conceivable elsewhere than in China. Sir Claude MacDonald, when

addressing the Marquess of Salisbury on the 20th February, 1898, in the course of a lengthy despatch, remarks:—"Sir Robert Hart has been instructed to frame Regulations, which I hope will be satisfactory. Some regulations there must be, but I anticipate that the Yamen will try, under their cover, to take from the concession most of its value, and it is very probable that strong pressure will be needed to prevent this. I feel confident that in resisting any such attempts I shall receive your lordship's support."

Hon. J. J. KESWICK said that the interpretation put upon the Inland Regulations had rendered the so-called opening of the West River practically valueless. The matter would come before the Chamber shortly.

#### THE REVIVAL OF AN ILLEGAL MONOPOLY IN KWANGTUNG.

Acting on the decision taken at last meeting, a letter was, on the 1st June, addressed to H.B.M.'s Consul at Canton, forwarding copy of a translation of the proclamation by the Head Lekin Office, Kwangtung, announcing the establishment of a Farm for the collection of lekin on kerosine, and asking him to make representations to the Viceroy on the subject.

The reply to this, dated 2nd June, stating that a protest had been made to the Viceroy, has already been published.

An acknowledgment of the above letter was sent to the Consul on the 7th June, thanking him for his prompt action in the matter.

Read further letter from Mr. Mansfield, dated 8th June, enclosing copy of the reply of the Viceroy to his protest. The Consul asked to be furnished with the names of the Syndicate who were farming the lekin.

Read also letters from the Standard Oil Co., Messrs. Meyer & Co., and Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co., Agents Shell Transport and Trading Co., in reply to inquiries by the Secretary, stating their inability to give names.

The CHAIRMAN—We have not been able to discover who are the real parties interested in this Farm, but some light may possibly be thrown upon the question by the publication the other day in the *Daily Press* of the details of a similar farm of Kerosine Lekin in Hainan, where it is asserted that a Chinese born British subject holds half of the shares. It is to be hoped the British Consul at Canton will not relax his efforts until this Farm, like its predecessor, is abolished.

#### THE MERCHANT SHIPPING AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1899.

The SECRETARY stated that on the 6th June he had an interview with the Acting Attorney-General, when they went through the various suggestions and proposed amendments by the Chamber in the above Bill and he had supplied Mr. Pollock with all the necessary data. He had also handed to the Acting Attorney-General a copy of the letter received on the 12th June from the Star Ferry Co., Limited, setting forth that under the existing Ordinance the Company cannot get the upper decks of two of its boats registered though certified by the Marine Surveyor and other competent authorities and asking the Chamber to embody in its recommendations on the Shipping Amendment Ordinance, 1899, a suggestion for the licensing of vessels having upper decks fitted for passengers. He (the Secretary) had reason to believe that most if not all of the suggestions of the Chamber would be adopted.

#### THE PIERS ORDINANCE, 1899.

Read letter, dated 16th June, from the Colonial Secretary, forwarding copy of a Bill entitled "The Piers Ordinance, 1899," in which a new scale of charges is embodied, showing a considerable increase on the amounts hitherto charged, but less than those proposed to be enforced last year under a new Order in Council, and against which the Chamber appealed as excessive.

Considerable discussion took place on this measure, and it was eventually decided that the opinions of the wharf owners should be taken and a letter criticising the Bill addressed to the Government.

#### BILL TO AMEND THE RAW OPIUM ORDINANCE, 1887.

Read letter from the Colonial Secretary, dated the 16th June, transmitting copy of a draft Bill to amend the Raw Opium Ordinance, 1887, for consideration by the Chamber. After some discussion.



Hon. J. J. KESWICK proposed that the Chamber should criticise the Bill.

This was agreed to and the Secretary was instructed to ascertain the views of the opium merchants and then address the Government. THE FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL CONGRESS AT PHILADELPHIA.

Read letter from the Government, dated 16th June, transmitting a circular despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies covering a letter from the Director of the Commercial Museums at Philadelphia in reference to the Commercial Congress to be held in October next at Philadelphia.

The CHAIRMAN said they had already received an urgent invitation to send a representative, but this had not been found practicable so far.

After some discussion.

It was decided to address an invitation to Mr. A. M. Townsend, the Agent in New York of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, to proceed to the Congress at Philadelphia in October next as representative of the Chamber.

This terminated the proceedings.

[Correspondence]

#### THE PIERS ORDINANCE.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 23rd June, 1899.

SIR.—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter (No. 905) of the 15th inst. enclosing draft of a Bill entitled "The Piers Ordinance, 1899," and requesting an expression of opinion thereon from the Chamber. In reply I am instructed by the Committee to remark:—

2.—The time given for consideration of so important a Bill, involving large interests, is brief and quite insufficient.

3.—There seems no necessity for such a measure. The rents paid hitherto have been fixed by His Excellency the Governor under an Order in Council, and the Committee respectfully submit that those rents are sufficient in amount.

4.—The scale in the Schedule, though lower than the one proposed last year, is still very much in excess of what should be charged when it is considered that the amount is fully six times that of the Crown Rent on the Marine Lots.

5.—If it were conceded that any necessity existed for this Bill, then Clause 20 ought certainly to receive an addition, something to the following effect:—"for a period of fifty years from that date when the scale will be subject to revision."

6.—The Bill is, however, open to several other serious objections, not the least being the breach of faith in certain instances with some of the wharf owners amounting to something in the nature of confiscation.

7.—The Committee wish again to point out to the Government that many of these piers were erected mainly for the convenience of the travelling public and that they are not now, and never were intended to be, a source of revenue. This is notably the case with the wharves of the River Steamboat Companies. Were these piers dispensed with and passengers and cargo landed in boats, as is done from the ocean steamers, great inconvenience would result, and the duties of the Water Police would be largely added to, while the facilities now existing for the rapid discharge and distribution of the food supplies brought in the river steamers would be much curtailed.

8.—Under all the circumstances therefore, and having regard to the fact that any burdens laid upon wharf owners must necessarily prove obstructive to the course of trade, a tax upon shipping, and an interference with the freedom of the port, the Committee trust that His Excellency the Governor will be able to see his way to continue the system and scale of rents for wharves now existing or with only some slight modification of the same.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTEBTON WILCOX,  
Secretary.

Hon. Colonial Secretary.

#### THE KWANGTUNG KEROSENE FARM.

British Consulate,  
Canton, 8th June, 1899.

SIR.—Referring to my letter of the 2nd instant, I now beg to enclose translation of the

Viceroy's reply to my protest against the re-establishment of the farm of kerosine duties.

I have read with care the correspondence in the former case of the Chap Yik Tong farm, and it appears that Sir Claude MacDonald's position there was, not that farming in principle was inadmissible, but that the farmer, being himself a dealer in the article the revenue on which was farmed, was placed in a position to secure a monopoly of the trade, in contravention of Article XIV. of the French Treaty.

This, then, is the ground on which, if it exists, the present case must be fought, and I shall be much obliged if you will endeavour to find out who are the members of the syndicate probably represented by the name Ch'en Fu-chang, the farmer named in the proclamation. Also if these members are dealers in kerosine. I am making enquiries here, but I believe they are all Hongkong people.

The Viceroy's despatch is written in a conciliatory tone and if I can show him that the farming of likin is in the present instance likely to lead to a monopoly I do not despair of inducing him to put an end to it.

The last clause in his despatch touches on the vexed question of the area of exemption from likin at the open ports. This will never be definitely settled until our respective Governments take it up in earnest, though I am glad to say I have so far carried the point locally that no likin is levied on goods taken from the steamers to a British shop in the city of Canton.

I have had no complaints as yet of any attempt on the part of the Likin Farm to levy duties on Transit Pass goods.—I am, sir, your obedient servant.

R. W. MANSFIELD,  
Consul.

The Chairman Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

June 6th, 1899.

SIR.—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of the 2nd instant, protesting against the re-establishment of the Kerosine Tax Farm.

I have the honour to observe that since the collection of the likin on kerosine reverted to the officials after the abolition of the Chi Yi Tang during the 2nd moon of last year, Chen Fu-chang, upon the recommendation of Prefect Wang, the Deputy then in charge of the Supplementary Likin Office, was allowed to collect the tax for the time being under official superintendence, and this has gone on for several months to the satisfaction of both Chinese and Foreign merchants. During the winter the collection was again undertaken by the officials, and it was found difficult to exercise a complete surveillance, as many traders, unprovided with transit passes sought to avoid the payment of likin. So this spring, the General Likin Office requested that Chen Fu-chang might again be allowed to undertake the collection as an experiment. I replied, instructing the likin office to enjoin on Chen Fu-chang that he must conform with the Treaties and Trade Regulations; that kerosine under transit pass, which had not arrived at destination, or which, having arrived at destination, had not yet been shipped elsewhere, could in no sense be placed on the same footing as goods not covered by transit pass; that if he reverted to the old methods of the Chi Yi Tang the farm would be immediately abolished; that only kerosine not under transit pass or which had left the destination specified in the transit pass was liable to pay likin; that these instructions were issued with a view to check abuses and do away with the evasion of duties. This is what is meant by the clause in the Treaty empowering the Chinese Authorities to adopt the means they may judge most proper (to prevent the revenue suffering from fraud or smuggling).

Having received your despatch above-quoted, it becomes my duty to again instruct the General Likin Office to exercise the most careful superintendence to prevent any obstruction to trade or deficiency in the revenue.

I have given orders to have it ascertained whether there is any objection to the opening of a likin office at Samshui. As regards your contention that the levy of likin within the limits of a Treaty port is entirely contrary to Treaty, I would observe that the Treaty only provides that likin shall not be levied on foreign

goods within settlement limits. It cannot be said that the levy of likin outside the settlements upon goods not covered by Transit Pass is contrary to Treaty.

(Seal of Viceroy.)

Translated by G. D. Fitzipios, Vice-Consul.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,  
Hongkong, 7th June, 1899.

SIR.—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of the 2nd inst. replying to my letter of the 1st inst. in regard to the re-establishment of the Farm for the collection of likin on kerosine in Kwangtung, in which you state that the question is receiving your active attention, and that you have also forwarded a copy of my letter to H. B. M.'s Minister at Peking.

I have to thank you in the name of the Committee for the prompt action taken in the matter, and to assure you that the result of your representations thereon is being awaited with much interest.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

R. M. GRAY,  
Chairman.

R. W. Mansfield, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Canton.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,  
Hongkong, 20th June, 1899.

SIR.—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of the 8th inst. enclosing copy of the Viceroy's reply to your representation on the subject of the revival of the Farm for the collection of likin on kerosine in Kwangtung, and the Committee will be glad to see your hope realised of inducing His Excellency to abolish the re-created monopoly.

With regard to the suggestion that the Chamber should endeavour to discover the identity of the members of the syndicate composing the Farm, efforts have been made to do so; but, I regret to say, without success. You will, no doubt, have seen the statement in the *Daily Press* to the effect that a British Chinese-born subject is connected with the Hainan Likin Farm, but whether there is any connection between that and the Kwangtung monopoly the Chamber is not at present in a position to determine.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. M. GRAY,  
Chairman.

To R. W. Mansfield, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Canton.

#### THE SYSTEM OF FINES FOR SMUGGLING AT SAIGON.

S.S. *Propontis*,  
Hongkong, 6th June, 1899.

To the Chamber of Commerce,

Gentlemen,—As I am anxious for the Chamber of Commerce at Hongkong to know how the British and German shipping are imposed upon at Saigon by the French Customs inasmuch as imposing fines for opium been secreted on board the steamers by Chinese employed on board.

I simply quote my own case which occurred upon my last voyage to Saigon, although several steamers have been imposed upon both German and British as well as myself. I left Hongkong for Singapore with passengers, and from thence to Saigon to load a cargo of rice to Hongkong. As soon as I arrived at Saigon the Customs officers came on board and said they had information of opium been secreted on board; would I give them permission to search, which I did. They found opium secreted in 3 or 4 most intricate places in the ship; nobody could have found it without information as to its whereabouts.

In all they found 263 taels of opium, of which they charged a fine of \$10,520, at the rate of \$40 per tael.

I went with our agent to interview the Commissioner of Customs, with a view of asking him to reduce the fine. I was obliged to humble myself in a most derogatory manner. After a long talk we got him to reduce it to \$5,000, which fine I think most outrageous. If the French Customs are going to impose fines upon foreign shipping to such an enormous amount, the sooner Saigon is boycotted the better, as it is a disgrace for the Republican Government to act in such a manner to Foreign shipping, which is the mainstay of the port.



I trust that the Chamber of Commerce of Hongkong will see their way clear in rectifying an infamous imposition upon Foreign shipping by the French Customs of Saigon.—I am, yours obediently.

R. CRAWFORD,  
Master, S. S. *Propontis*.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
16th June, 1899.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 6th instant and previous correspondence relative to the hardship entailed upon British and German vessels by the system of rewards obtaining at Saigon for information leading to the discovery of smuggled opium on board such vessels, I am directed to state for the information of the Chamber that the Government proposes to deal with the matter by making the concealment of opium on board a ship a penal offence.

The draft of a Bill to the above effect will be prepared and submitted to the Chamber in due course.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant

J. G. T. BUCKLE,  
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,  
Hongkong, 17th June, 1899.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., giving particulars of the fine inflicted upon your steamer (the *Propontis*) at Saigon in consequence of information having been laid with the Customs there and the consequent discovery of 263 taels secreted on board.

Your case has been laid before the Committee, and is under their consideration. They have already made representations to the local Government, who are getting the whole matter brought to the notice of the French Authorities at Saigon, and taking steps to deter Chinese from concealing the drug on board vessels.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,  
Secretary.

R. Crawford, Esq., Master S. S. *Propontis*.

#### THE FERRY LAUNCHES AND THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE.

The "Star" Ferry Co., Limited.

Hongkong, 12th June, 1899.

Sir, I have the honour to bring the following facts to the notice of the Chamber of Commerce:—

(1)—This Company is possessed of two double ended ferry boats—the *Morning* and *Gullwing*—the *Star*—having an upper deck for first class passengers.

(2)—The Government Marine Surveyor, whilst agreeing that this upper deck is safe for the carriage of passengers, is unable to measure it for that purpose because the law gives him no power to do so.

(3)—The Government on being appealed to decline to interfere in the matter.

(4)—The opinion of Mr. Francis Q.C. has been taken and he agrees that the Marine Surveyor has no power to measure the deck in question.

(5)—Mr. Gillies, Messrs. Burnie and Goddard, and Captain Anderson have given it as their opinion that it is absolutely safe to carry passengers on the upper deck.

The position is therefore this:—The boats were specially designed for carrying passengers on the upper deck, experts are of opinion that it is perfectly safe to do so, and as a matter of fact they actually do carry them; yet the law does not allow of the deck being measured.

Such an anomaly is, it is considered, sufficient justification for an amendment of the law and my Directors will be much obliged if the Chamber of Commerce would embody in the recommendations which they are making to the Government in connection with revision of the Shipping Ordinance a suggestion to the effect that the upper decks of ferry launches which are specially constructed for carrying passengers should be licensed accordingly.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

EDWARD OSBORNE,  
Secretary.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

#### THE SUBSIDIARY COINAGE.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,  
Hongkong, 20th June, 1899.

Sir,—The Committee of this Chamber have for some time had under consideration the growing evil caused by the unchecked inflow into this Colony of subsidiary silver tokens issued from the Canton Mint. These coins are supplied at a discount ranging from 1 to 2½ per cent. to speculators, who introduce them to the Colony, and, by the aid of Chinese shroffs, force them into circulation, to the almost total exclusion of the legal subsidiary currency (of which there is now a most ample supply), thereby practically exploiting the colonial revenue and causing serious loss and inconvenience to the inhabitants. I am therefore instructed to beg you to inform His Excellency the Governor that this Chamber considers the evil has attained such dimensions as to call for an effective remedy, and that steps should at once be taken to prevent the entry and circulation in the Colony of any foreign subsidiary coins.

The Committee would be obliged if you can furnish the Chamber with a copy of the Ordinance recently passed in the Straits Settlements to exclude the Japanese silver yen from that Colony, and would like to be informed what measures were adopted to prevent the introduction of the coin there.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,  
Secretary.

Hon. Colonial Secretary.

#### THE PROPOSED RETROCESSION OF SHAMCHUN.

24th June.

No definite information as to the reported handing back of Shamchun to the Chinese for a money indemnity seems forthcoming. The authorities here say they know nothing about the matter except that any negotiations which may be going on are between the home Government and the authorities at Peking, but that the place has certainly not been handed over as yet. Our representative was jokingly advised to apply at Peking for any further information on the matter.

26th June.

With reference to the proposed retrocession of Shamchun, the position, it is reported, is this: The bill for the operations rendered necessary by the Chinese perfidy in connection with the New Territory has been made up and amounts, including military and civil expenditure, to \$93,000. China has been given the option of paying this sum and taking back Shamchun, but has not yet intimated her acceptance of the offer. The local Government is not credited with having done much to prevent the retrocession but in view of the official secrecy observed it is impossible to ascertain exactly what has transpired. The home papers will probably contain fuller information than is obtainable locally.

#### THE "PLOVER" FIRED ON AT BOCCA TIGRIS.

MISTAKEN FOR AN ITALIAN.

A Canton correspondent sends us a translation from the *Ling Hoi Po* of the 27th June to the effect that on the 4th of the 5th moon (11th June), as H.B.M. gunboat *Plover* was proceeding up the river to Canton, the mandarin in charge of Bocca Tigris, who had instructions to open fire upon any Italian man-of-war going to Canton, ordered a flag to be hoisted to stop her, mistaking her for an Italian. The fort signalman in the hurry and excitement hoisted a wrong flag, and the *Plover* did not stop. The mandarin took this as an insult to his dignity, and to show that he was not to be trifled with ordered a blank charge to be fired across the gunboat. The Commander of the *Plover* on arriving at Canton went to the British Consulate to have a despatch sent to the Viceroy demanding an apology. Subsequently the mandarin went on board in person to apologise, but the Commander refused to accept the apology unless it was tendered by a superior authority, and the matter was still pending.

The correspondent adds that from an authentic source he learns that the incident above narrated really took place. A full apology was made in a satisfactory manner and the affair has been closed. A number of high mandarins made official and friendly calls on the *Plover*.

#### MACAO AND THE CHINESE CUSTOMS.

In giving a translation of the article on the Chinese Customs at Kiaochau which appeared in the *Daily Press* on the 26th June the *Echo Macao* makes the following prefatory remarks:—

Since the West River has been opened to European trade we have repeatedly drawn the attention of our Government to the necessity of arriving at a new arrangement with the Chinese Government respecting the trade between Macao and the West River, the substitution of steamers for junks rendering necessary a revision and alteration of the Convention of 1887 regarding the junk trade. Junks leaving Macao might submit to examination at the Customs station at Malowchow, at the entrance to Macao harbour, even though sometimes they had to land their cargo at the Customs jetty to have it compared with the manifest, the voyage being delayed for hours and sometimes for days, but it is not to be supposed that this system could be applied to the accelerated navigation of steamers, whose principal advantage consists in the rapidity and regularity of their voyages, an advantage that would disappear if steamers were to be subjected to the same Customs system as junks with all its delays and interruptions.

Nor is it to be expected that the Chinese Government should favour accelerated navigation between Macao and the West River ports and permit steamers to proceed direct from Macao to the Chinese non-treaty ports to which junks trade without stopping at Malowchow unless they have given in advance guarantees to the Chinese revenue service for the payment of proper duty.

An agreement to this effect might be safely entered into and would prove mutually advantageous. We have earnestly and incessantly drawn attention to this subject, but all in vain. It seems that we can only follow the lead of foreigners and are incapable of taking the initiative in anything.

The desired agreement will come, but it will be after Hongkong has made hers, when the conditions will be more adverse, whereas favourable conditions might be obtained if our Government would act promptly.

In the meantime we would call the attention of the Government to the interesting article which we translate below. It will there be seen what course has been adopted at Kiaochau and what is recommended with respect to Hongkong. We cannot completely accept the Kiaochau *modus vivendi*, but our contemporary's recommendations with respect to Hongkong might be applied to Macao.

The translation of the *Daily Press* article is then given.

#### THE ALLEGED ANTI-FOREIGN FEELING AT WUCHOW.

We are informed of good authority that there is absolutely no foundation for the statements which, first appearing in a Hongkong paper (the *China Mail*) and since copied into many of the home papers, including the *Times*, assert the existence of a violent anti-foreign feeling in Wuchow and the issue of placards by the officials inciting the people to rise and massacre the foreigners. A solitary placard—a poor imitation of one of the famous Hunan placards—was posted in the city during the examinations, most probably by a student. *Hinc ille lachrymæ!*

The fact is that the people of Wuchow are unusually friendly and polite to the handful of foreigners resident in their midst and the local officials are particularly willing to do their duty according to their lights. Some 3,000 students assembled in Wuchow for the examinations recently, and although tennis was played on an open piece of ground within 50 yards of the Examination Hall every day during that period, not one case of insult or even rudeness to foreigners has to be recorded. So much for the "violent anti-foreign propaganda."



## THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF AN AMERICAN BLUE-JACKET.

At the Magistracy on Saturday morning Mr. T. Sercombe Smith continued his enquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of the American blue-jacket Macpherson, of the *Concord*, who was found dead in Staveley street early on the morning of the 16th June.

Agnes Craig, a barmaid at the Stag Hotel, said she lived at Wanchai. She was at the hotel, behind the bar, on the evening of the 15th of June until half past 11. When she left she went out by the side door. There was no porter there, when she went out. She did not return that evening. She had never slept in the Stag Hotel. She did not know an American sailor called Macpherson by name. She heard of his dead body having been picked up outside the hotel when she returned the following evening.

An inside coolie at the Stag Hotel said he kept the side door at the Hotel every third night. He was on watch on the night of the 15th inst. He went on watch at 11.50 p.m. He bolted and barred the side door himself at that time. Mr. Cowell, the manager, did not help him; nor was he at the door when witness closed it, nor did he come to see him after the door had been locked up.

Chief Detective Inspector Hanson said that at 6 a.m. on the 16th inst., he went to Staveley street, where he saw the body of the man who had been identified as Macpherson. He noticed that he had two wounds on the forehead, and comparing the distances between the studs on the man-hole cover near which the man's head lay he came to the conclusion that he had fallen on his face and struck the studs, and on learning that the man had not been in the hotel he concluded that he had fallen down the steps and struck his head against the man hole cover. He went to a Japanese brothel in Graham Street, but found no traces of deceased's clothing there. He looked up deceased's ship-mates to get to know where deceased had been and also enquired of the Chinese detective staff with the object of tracing the man's clothing, but he could not get any information. Before making these enquiries he turned the body over and noticed on the back the configuration on the skin of what might have been the impression of a cane chair or a hard mat, and he came to the conclusion that the man could not have fallen down long. From what he remembered the pattern of the impressions on the man's back corresponded with the pattern of the chair produced, which he found on the verandah of the Stag Hotel in front of No. 2. The height of the verandah railings was 2 ft. 9½ in., with two pieces of six strand wire stretched between the verandah up-rights, the upper one being 3 ft. 6 in. above the upper edge of the verandah and the lower one at the north end was a foot above the rail and at the south end close to the chair it was only two inches above the top of the rail. The upright at the south end had marks which led him to conclude that the wire had been pulled down the upright from the original height to two inches above the top of the railing. Room No. 2 and the room north of it had a common verandah cut off by an iron frame from the northern part of the verandah.

A cook in the employ of the flat on the opposite side of Staveley Street sometimes used for the accommodation of European guests at the Hotel also gave evidence.

The enquiry was adjourned.

### THE CORONER'S FINDING.

At the Magistracy on Monday afternoon Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, concluded the enquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of the American blue-jacket Macpherson. He said that on the morning of the 16th June the body of an American called Macpherson was found in Staveley Street outside the Stag Hotel. The doctor's evidence was to the effect that the man's thigh was broken, that there were two small wounds on the forehead, and that the skull was fractured. The doctor added that the injuries might have been the result of a fall from a height of over ten feet and expressed the opinion that they could not have been caused by a fall down steps, and that the blood must have stopped flowing from the wounds two and a half minutes

after death. The position of the body was described by the witness Brown, who said that it was lying at right angles to the street, the head pointing towards the hotel. Four theories presented themselves to the Court to account for this man being found where he was. The first was that the man might have fallen elsewhere from a height and been carried to the place where he was found. The second theory was that he might have been running down Staveley Street and fallen headlong; the third was that he might have rolled down Staveley Street and over the steps; and the fourth theory was that he fell from the verandah of No. 2 bedroom at the Stag Hotel. His Worship gave his reasons for being of opinion that neither of the first three theories was plausible, but coming to the fourth he said that the verandah of No. 2 bedroom at the Stag Hotel was of such a height that a fall from it would have caused the wounds found on the body, and the further facts which pointed to the inference that the death of this man was caused by a fall from this verandah were as follows. The position of the body with the head lying immediately under the verandah and the position of the body at right angles to the road; the wounds on the head, the distance between which corresponded with the distance between the knobs on the man-hole; the fracture of the thigh, which was quite consistent with the man having fallen from the verandah; the marks on the body spoken to by the police constable and Chief Detective Inspector Hanson, showing that the man had recently been either lying on a hard matting or had been reclining on a cane chair, and the evidence of Inspector Hanson and the discovery of a cane chair in the south end of the verandah of No. 2 bedroom the pattern of which corresponded with the pattern on the man's body went to strengthen the theory that the man fell from the verandah. Mr. Hanson also found that the wire guard on the verandah had slipped down at the south end of the verandah where the chair was. Then they found that the man was absolutely naked. That would be quite consistent with his having been in the bedroom, and they had the fact that death was instantaneous and that blood ceased to flow a few minutes after death. Putting all these things together His Worship considered the evidence consistent with the theory that deceased fell from the verandah of No. 2 bedroom. There was no direct evidence of any kind that this man entered the hotel or of the time when he entered the hotel, but the circumstantial facts which had been brought out in evidence led him to the conclusion that this man had undoubtedly been in the house in the course of the morning, and that he fell from the verandah of No. 2 bedroom. His verdict was that the cause of death was fracture of the skull accompanied by laceration of the brain, and he would add that the evidence indicated that deceased fell from the verandah of bedroom No. 2 of the Stag Hotel.

### THE FATAL ACCIDENT IN WYNDHAM STREET.

#### INQUEST.

On the 23rd June Mr. Sercombe Smith held an inquest at the Magistracy touching the death of Amos Haddaway, second engineer of the *Zafiro*, who was found dead in Wyndham Street early on the morning of the 14th inst., having evidently fallen from the verandah at No. 3.

Dr. Lawson, who examined the body, said death resulted from a compound fracture of the skull and laceration and hemorrhage of the brain. The skull was smashed into small pieces.

Mrs. Lewis, who keeps a boarding house at No. 3, Wyndham Street, said that early on the morning of the 14th instant she heard a noise as of someone falling. She went upstairs into the top floor into the room fronting the street and on going on to the verandah she saw a chair there. The verandah was as usual; neither the railing nor any thing else was broken. This room was just above her room. At night the house door was closed to, but was not locked. She had no porter. On getting downstairs again she saw two Sikh policemen standing in the street a little distance from the body. Deceased came to the house at about 3.30 p.m. that day. He spoke

to her and was perfectly sober at the time. At about four o'clock he said he would go out for a walk and return to take her little boy on board. At about ten minutes to six she found deceased on the sofa in the dining room sound asleep. He had told her that he had not had a wink of sleep the night before. At about eight o'clock he went out, and at about 10.30 she heard someone come in, but she could not say that she heard anyone moving about in the room above her that night, but the person who passed her door must have gone upstairs.

Indian Constable 733 said that early on the morning of the 14th inst. he was in Wyndham Street when he heard a cracking noise and on going forward he saw a man lying in the street. On examining him he found that he was dead, and he left another Indian constable in charge and reported the matter at the Central Police Station. A European constable accompanied him to Wyndham Street, and the body was removed to that Central Police Station.

P. C. Bourne said that he accompanied the previous witness to Wyndham Street, and outside No. 3 he found the dead body of a European. He had a large wound at the back of his head and blood was rushing out of his ears. The body was still warm. He had the body removed to the Central Police Station. He examined the house at No. 3. The verandah was about 40 feet from the ground, and the railing was about three feet high. The man smelled of beer, and had evidently been drinking. He found a hat on the floor of the top room and a jacket was on a chair. Part of a projecting tile on the verandah had broken away, and he found the broken off part in the street besides the body.

A verdict was returned to the effect that death resulted from a compound fracture of the skull and laceration and hemorrhage of the brain, the result of a fall.

His Worship advised Mrs. Lewis to see that the railing of the verandah was raised.

### VOLUNTEER PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

#### TAKING LEAVE OF THE ACTING COMMANDANT.

On Monday evening the prizes for the annual carbine competition were presented at the Volunteer Headquarters by the Honorary Colonel, H. E. Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.

In view of the approaching departure of the popular Acting Commandant of the corps the Officers held a dinner at Headquarters before the prize distribution, amongst those present being H.E. Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G.; H.E. Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G.; Colonel Mainwaring, C.M.G. Viscount Suiriale, A.D.C.; Hon. F. H. May Hon. J. J. Keswick, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Captain Chapman, Captain Sanders, Captain the Hon. H. W. Trefusis, Captain Bland, Captain, Ordish, Lieutenants Macdonald, Fullerton, Sayer, Aitken, Underwood, and Maitland, Messrs Macgregor Forbes, R. Mitchell, and G. H. Potts. After dinner, the company adjourned to the reading-room, where the prize distribution took place.

The members of the corps turned up in strong force to bid farewell to the Acting Commandant, Colonel R. B. Mainwaring, C.M.G. The band and drums of the 2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers played selections during the evening.

His Excellency distributed the prizes as follows:—

200 yards—Won by Corporal Bamsay.

400 Yards.—Gunner Hance.

500 Yards.—Gunner Sutton.

Aggregates.—First prize, Sergeant Skelton; 2nd, Captain Chapman (who passes it over); 2nd, Sergeant Rutter; 3rd, Gunner Toller; 4th, Gunner Donaldson 5th Gunner A. Humphreys; 6th, Gunner Sutton; 7th, Sergeant Drummer Brown.

Field Battery Championship.—Sergeant McPhail.

"A" Machine Gun Company Championship.—Sergeant Skelton.

Officers' Competition.—Captain Chapman.

Recruits' Competition.—Gunner Abraham.

Band Competition.—Gunner Toller.

Instructors' Competition.—Sergeant Drummer Mackie, R.W.F.

Corps Championship.—1-98, Gunner Stewart, 1899, Sergeant Skelton.



Most Bulls.—Sergeant Smyth.  
Prize Donors.—Ex-Gunner Davies.  
Consolation.—Gunner P. G. Smith.  
Field Battery Monthly Carbine Competition  
Gunner Toller.  
Toller Cup—Battery Sgt. and Major Dun-

can. A "Machine Gun Company Monthly Carbine Competition—Aggregate Cup and No. 1 Monthly Cup, Sergeant Skelton; No. 2, Gunner P. G. Smith.

Field Battery 7-pounder Competition.—  
Won by Right Section; Acting Section Commander, Battery Sergeant-Major Duncan; Captains of detachments, Sergeants G. C. Hayward and W. Armstrong. No. 1 detachment, Sergeant G. G. Hayward, Corporal Stopani, Gunners Higgins, Burgess, Waton, Uphill, Howarth, Spittals, Dean, and Taylor. No. 2 detachment, Sergeant Armstrong, Corporal Humphreys, Gunner A. Humphreys, Bombardier Nobbs, Gunners Brett, E. Seth, Beven, Craig, Wilkinson, and H. Lammett.

Captain Francis's Cup—Won by Field Battery.

His Excellency, who was greeted with applause, then said that the previous time he was present at a distribution of Volunteer prizes was in Nottingham and he was deeply impressed with what he saw on that occasion. The distribution was in connection with the Robin Hood Volunteers, a regiment which numbered a thousand strong. He saw them inspected, and a smarter regiment he never saw on parade. In Nottingham everybody was proud of their Volunteers and everybody gave some sort of a prize. The prizes did not merely consist of silver cups. Silver cups were very useful things and very pretty, but there were many other things which might be given by people who did not want to give a silver cup. Among the prizes in Nottingham were a dozen pair of stockings—(laughter.)—and another of the prizes was an easy chair. He hoped that next year they might be able to get up something of the kind in Hongkong and he hoped also that instead of being in that small room at the prize distribution they would have their meeting in the City Hall with all the 350 men belonging to the Volunteers there—(applause)—and their wives and sweethearts and families to look on. He thought it would be a very interesting gathering, and that it would be in the general interest of the Volunteers. The last time he was there and spoke to the Volunteers was after the Corps had done him the honour to ask him to be their honorary colonel. There were 180 men in the Corps then. Now, thanks to the energy of their temporary Commandant, Colonel Mainwaring—(Applause)—who he was sorry to say was leaving them—and of the officers of the regiment, and to the feeling which began to obtain among the Europeans in Hongkong that a Volunteer regiment in Hongkong was not a mere parade business, but might be a very important factor in the safety and defence of the colony, the regiment now numbered 302 men; and he had no doubt that before many weeks had elapsed 350 men would be enrolled in the Hongkong Volunteer Force. (applause.) That was not enough, however, for what he wanted, as he had become connected with the corps, was not only to see 350 men but to see 350 efficient men. (Hear, hear.) He wanted every man who joined the corps to remember that there were two things that a soldier must be able to do—he must be able to march and to shoot. If they could conceive 350 Sergeant Skeltons quietly sitting on the top of the hill with an enemy at the foot he should be very sorry for the enemy. (Hear, hear.) Now they could not have 350 Sergeant Skeltons, but they might have 350 fair shots of their kind. He wanted to see 350 men that they would be able to swagger about and who would be superior to any other corps in the East, either at Shanghai or anywhere else. (applause.) He hoped that next year when they met they would have a jolly evening and that it would be found that the average shooting of the Hongkong Volunteers was equal if not superior to that of any regiment in the garrison. (applause.) He wanted the young men who came out from the British Isles to show the stuff that was in them—to show that they were prepared to give up time and take the unavoidable trouble to become efficient,

because efficiency came by the goose step and by the firing exercise. They must begin with them, for they could not expect to be successful except they began at the beginning. He congratulated the victors on the beautiful prizes they had won. He hoped that the next time they met they would meet in a much larger room, and that they would have an enthusiastic and thoroughly efficient corps which would serve as a pattern for every corps in the East. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, His Excellency said—Now men of the Hongkong Volunteers, as I said before unfortunately this is the last occasion upon which you will have the pleasure of meeting your Commandant of the last two months, who has done so much for the regiment. He is leaving us to enjoy that well merited promotion which Her Majesty has seen fit to give him, and I ask you for three cheers for the Commandant, in grateful recollection of all that he has done for the regiment.

The call was heartily responded to.

Colonel MAINWARING expressed his thanks for the way they had greeted him. He asked them to promise that by the next prize distribution they would every one of them be efficient and do all they could to be gainers of prizes. To show this he asked them to give three cheers for their Colonel, His Excellency the Governor.

The three cheers were lustily given and the formal proceedings then terminated.

#### DR. ATKINSON ON PLAGUE AND SANITATION.

We make the following extracts from the report of Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer, on "The health and sanitation of the colony of Hongkong for 1898":—

##### PLAGUE.

Unfortunately the Colony was again attacked in an epidemic form by this disease, which prevailed practically until the end of August. There were 1,320 cases reported with 1,175 deaths; of these 75 occurred amongst the Non-Chinese with 49 deaths, a mortality of 65.3 per cent.; whereas the mortality amongst the Chinese was 89.6 per cent. The following table gives the number of cases reported in each month of the years 1896 and 1898:—

	1896.	1898.		1896.	1898.
Jan.	49	9	July	52	7
Feb.	125	67	Aug.	25	2
March	168	137	Sept.	9	1
April	316	468	Oct.	2	2
May	344	534	Nov.	1	0
June	113	92	Dec.	0	1

1,204 1,320

It will be seen that the disease in each year attained its maximum in the month of May. In this Colony in each outbreak the months of maximum mean temperature are followed by a material reduction in the number of cases.

The city of Victoria is divided in ten Health Districts. On the 24th March Districts Nos. 2, 4, 5, and 6 were declared infected; in the following month the disease spread to British Kowloon, this being declared infected on the 18th April, whilst Aberdeen and Apichau were not infected until June.

Unfortunately, more Europeans were attacked than was the case in 1896, the numbers being 26 as against 16. I regret to have to report amongst these two of the Nursing Sisters at the Government Civil Hospital, who both succumbed to the pneumonic type of the disease, the first, Sister Frances, undoubtedly having contracted it from a Chinese patient in the observation at the Government Civil Hospital suffering from what proved to be pneumonic variety, and the other, Sister Gertrude, contracted the disease whilst nursing Sister Frances.

Each epidemic year has been followed by a year of freedom from the disease, e.g., 1894, 1896, and 1898 were epidemic years whilst in 1895 and thus far in 1899 the colony has been practically free from the disease. \*

It is worthy of note that an outbreak of rinderpest (cattle plague) occurred amongst the cattle at the Pokfulam Dairy Farm in the months of February and March and that during the earlier part of the year the neighbouring provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi were overrun with rinderpest, which killed off large

\* The report is dated 7th March, 1899.

numbers of cattle. A similar outbreak of rinderpest occurred amongst the cattle at Pokfulam prior to the 1894 epidemic.

#### GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

Though much has been done of late years to improve the sanitary condition of the Colony by (a) The removal of illegal cocklofts, mezzanine floors and backyard obstructions, (b) the concreting of the Chinese houses not only in Victoria but at Hung Hem, Yau-mati, and Taikeksui in British Kowloon; (c) the steady improvement of defective house-drains; (d) the closure of polluted wells; no one acquainted with the elements of sanitation and the conditions of overcrowding, filth, and ignorance that exist can fail to see that it will be years before those conditions necessary for the maintenance of the public health are satisfactorily established in this City.

The Insanitary Properties Commission, who had been sitting since August, 1896, issued their report in March of last year, and in it they state:—

"That there are many insanitary properties in the Colony, and dwellings which, in their present condition, are unfit for human habitation."

"The back portions of a number of houses visited by us are dark, ill-ventilated, extremely dirty and, in some cases, mere dens of filth. The interior of the cubicles or subdivisions of the living rooms was such that in the great majority of cases their contents could only be seen by the aid of an artificial light."

They call particular attention to the tabulated statement of the Medical Officer of Health, in which he states that in Health Districts V. and VI. out of a total of 3,095 Chinese houses 2,530 are insanitary. In the other Health Districts it appears from his evidence that a similar unsatisfactory state of affairs exists. To show to what extent overcrowding exists I append the following table from the Medical Officer of Health's report for 1897.—(Here follows the table). From this it is seen that in No. V. Health District there are no less than 959 persons to the acre.

A Bill has been framed to make further provision for the sanitation of the Colony and is now under consideration by the Legislature. It contains regulations as to cubicles, doing away with them entirely in houses fronting streets of a width of 15 feet or less, limiting their height &c. It makes the erection of mezzanine floors or cocklofts illegal without the permission of the Sanitary Board. It limits the heights of buildings. The most important regulations are those that insist on the provision of an open space in the rear of every domestic building already erected, erected hereafter or now in process of erection; these, if passed, will do away with back to back houses. It also requires that no obstructions shall be in any private streets or lanes upon which domestic buildings abut.

To remedy these insanitary defects it is necessary to aim towards the attainment of abundance of pure air and light in houses, shops and streets, to provide an abundant supply of pure wholesome water, to do away with back to back houses, to abolish blind courts and alleys, to prevent overcrowding and to increase as far as practicable open spaces in the crowded part of the city.

#### METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS OF THE SEASONS AND THEIR PROBABLE EFFECT WITH REGARD TO SICKNESS.

The conclusions to be drawn from our experience of plague in 1896 and 1898 are that the occurrence of plague is favoured by (1) Long prevalence of drought or of abnormally low rainfall; (2) atmospheric temperature below 82° F., as the months of maximum mean temperature were in each year followed by a material reduction in the number of cases; (3) the absence of sunshine; (4) the dampness of the atmosphere; during the months in which there were most cases the mean humidity of the atmosphere was high.

The appointment of Mr. R. F. Drury to be Sanitary Surveyor to the Sanitary Board is gazetted.



## REVIEWS.

*Opinions of over 100 Physicians on the Use of Opium in China.* Compiled by WILLIAM HECTOR PARK, M.D., Surgeon in charge of the Soochow Hospital, Surgeon to the Imperial Maritime Customs, etc. Shanghai: Printed at the American Presbyterian Missions Press, 1899. (Shanghai and Hongkong: Kelly & Wals, Limited)

THIS compilation is the result of a resolution arrived at at a meeting of the Soochow Missionary and Literary Association, at which an Anti Opium League was formed, which subsequently appointed a committee to prepare a pamphlet setting forth the views of the foreign physicians in China on the use of opium in that country. Eventually the work of this Committee devolved upon Dr. Park. A series of questions based on the questions asked by the Royal Opium Commission was got out and sent to every physician in China. If any were overlooked, we are told in the preface, it was accidental. More than one hundred replies were received, most of them from missionary physicians, but the other physicians in China did not all stand aloof. Most of the replies are uncompromisingly condemnatory of opium smoking, but there are some few which raise a suggestion that the alleged evil effects of the vice may be exaggerated. For instance, Dr. Smyth, of Ningpo, says:—"I and my fellow medical missionaries, as a rule, only deal with opium smokers of the lowest and lower middle classes of Chinese society—people who cannot, while taking opium, buy nourishing food. It would be an obvious fallacy to draw conclusions as to the effect of the opium habit generally from the observed effect on such people. I therefore suggest guarded language in the report." Dr. A. Lyall, of Swatow, in the course of a rather long reply on the moral, social, and physical effects of the drug, says that "it is chiefly, but not exclusively, among the labouring classes that physical wrecks predominate, and it is perhaps difficult to differentiate exactly the effects produced by opium from those produced by lack of sufficient food. Admitting these facts, we still maintain that definite physical effects follow sooner or later, though they are less distinctive than those produced by alcohol." Dr. John F. McPhun, of Kwantung, gives his impression of the moral and physical effects as follows:—"Moral effect.—If smoker is well off no particular change, except as the natives say they are not so ready to get angry as formerly. Physically.—If well off not much change unless taken to excess." To the question whether many employers object to employing opium smokers several replies are given in the negative. Dr. Canright says, "Seemingly few;" Dr. Carleton, "Never heard so;" Dr. Colman, "No, not strenuously;" and Dr. Hare, "Never heard of any; I think they look on it as a necessary evil now; never heard of any one being refused employment on account of opium except among the foreigners."

These replies, as already indicated, are far from typical, the great majority being to the effect that opium smoking is debasing and deleterious in every respect, socially, morally, and physically, and that it is so regarded by the Chinese themselves. When the ordinary layman, however, looks around for ocular evidence of the ruin that opium is said to be working amongst the Chinese people he fails to find it and he will probably be led to the conclusion that the minority replies quoted above more nearly represent the true state of the case than the majority.

*The Great Pirate Syndicate.* By GEORGE GRIFFITH. London: George Bell and Sons. MR. GRIFFITH has a lively imagination in the matter of the mechanical and chemical appliances of warfare. The Pirate Syndicate is composed of a few British millionaires who secure control of several important military inventions, and, for the protection of British industry, force on a declaration of war, and then co-operate with the Government. The power of the new engines is such that the enemy is reduced to impotence without any greater destruction of life than is necessary to demonstrate the hopelessness of resistance; and then follows the process of starving Europe out, the

outcome being that the whole of the overseas trade is monopolised by Great Britain and her allies the United States and South American Republics. Amongst the inventions which the Syndicate secured was a wonderful aerial destroyer whose movements could be controlled from a ship's deck; powerful explosives being dropped at any desired point; equally wonderful submarine destroyers; and, most wonderful of all, an invention by which a Cuban anarchist is represented to have destroyed the *Maïne*, namely, the application of some mysterious rays operating like wireless telegraphy and having the effect when concentrated on an isolated fabric of steel of polarising it, so that all metals amidship lose their tone, engines won't work, the crank-shafts and pistons snap like glass, guns infallibly burst if fired, and, if the rays are kept concentrated for a longer period, the tension becomes too great, something like a flash of lightning passes through the ship, and the magazine blows up. The result of the application of this invention is that when the French fleet puts out to meet the Syndicate's squadron the electric current by which the French guns should have been fired refused to work, and when an order was given to fire them with fuses every gun that was fired burst, and finally, finding he was fighting with weapons to which he could not reply, the French admiral had no option but to surrender. It would have been rather uncomfortable if the enemy had been in possession of this wonderful invention instead of the British as might very well have happened, for the inventor was picked up accidentally in Paris and would apparently have been willing to sell the invention to any one willing to pay for it. The inventor of the aerial destructor was also a foreigner, namely, a Russian. None of the credit belonged to the British, therefore, except that of having got hold of the inventions and successfully applied them.

Some of the action of the tale is laid in the Far East. A demand made by the Syndicate upon Russia to clear out of Port Arthur and upon Germany to leave Kiao-chow is followed by the interception of the *Sachsen* on her way up from Singapore to Hongkong; the German liner is ordered back to Singapore, whence the occurrence is reported to the British and German Governments, and so the ball is opened.

## THE GYMNAHANA.

The second Gymkhana of the season was held on the Race Course on Saturday afternoon in beautiful weather. Additional interest attached to the meeting from the fact that in view of the coming departure of Col. Mowbray, C.M.G., to fill the position of Assistant Adjutant General at Portsmouth, he and the officers of the Royal Welch Fusiliers were at home to their friends at Happy Valley. The Fusiliers Band was in attendance, and played a choice selection of music during the afternoon. H.E. the Governor (Sir H. Blake, G.C.M.G.), and H.E. Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G., were among those present.

A five furlong race was the first event. There were six competitors and the Yellow Dwarf, ridden by Mr. Johnson, had very little difficulty in coming in first. The Hon. T. H. Whitehead's Traveller, ridden by Mr. Cruickshank, won the polo pony race easily, though apparently very few expected him to do so, as there was a \$63 dividend at the pari-mutuel as the result. The Ladies' Nomination secured a large entry, as many as 15 trying their skill. Mr. R. H. Potts made the first attempt at the rings, and succeeded in carrying off his colour, and the finish found him at the top of the list. The Steeplechase, in which six competed, ought really to have been won by Mr. Walwyn's Landsknecht, which was romping home when he stumbled and was ousted from first place by Kidare. The One Mile Handicap was the best race of the day. Immediately after the start Yellow Dwarf got ahead, but Tube Rose soon outdistanced him, Montebello also getting in front of him. Then Tocsin and Queensberry came up, but Tube Rose stuck to the lead and finished first.

The following were the officials:—

Committee:—J. S. Bruce, Esq., W. A. Cruickshank, Esq., The Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., R. M. Gray, Esq., V. A. Caesar Hawkins, Esq.,

T. F. Hough, Esq., The Hon. J. J. Keswick, The Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., J. McKie, Esq., G. C. Moxon, Esq., G. H. Potts, Esq., Capt. G. E. Rickman, R.W.F., C. F. Rundall, Esq., R.E., Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G., Capt. W. L. Warren, R.A., Commander Plenderleath, R.N., and The Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

Judges:—The Hon. J. J. Keswick and V. A. Caesar Hawkins, Esq.

Handicappers:—The Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and J. McKie, Esq.

Starter:—T. F. Hough, Esq.

Timekeeper:—G. H. Potts, Esq.

Clerk of the Scales:—J. McKie, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer:—J. S. Bruce, Esq.

Hon. Secretary:—G. C. Moxon, Esq.

FIVE FURLONG RACE; for all China ponies weight as per scale with 4 lbs. added; winners at this season's Gymkhanas, once, 5 lbs.; twice or oftener, 10 lbs. extra; subscription griffins of this season unplaced (i.e. 1st or 2nd) at the Hongkong race meeting, allowed 4 lbs.; entrinos, \$3; first prize, cup, presented by G. H. Potts, Esq.; second prize, \$20.

Captain Rickman's Yellow Dwarf, 10st 8lb (Mr. Johnson) 1  
Captain Bancroft's Grasshopper, 11st (Mr. Walwyn) 2  
Mr. Forbes McGregor's Glenroy, 11st 5lb (Mr. Gresson) 3  
Captain Geoghegan's Sayan, 10st 8lb (Captain Geoghegan) 0  
Mr. Kelly's Sirdar, 11st 9lb (Mr. Cruickshank) 0  
Mr. Riddell's Pineapple, 11st 13lb (Mr. Cox) 0

POLO PONY RACE; for all *bona fide* Polo ponies, to be declared as such by the Polo Committee; bareback, from the  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile post in; competitors to be dismounted at the starting post and mount on fall of flag; no whips or spurs allowed; first prize, cup, presented from the Gymkhana fund; second prize, a whip; entrance, \$1.

Hon. T. H. Whitehead's Traveller, (Mr. Cruickshank) 1  
Capt. Rickman's Bracknek (Mr. Johnson) 2  
Mr. Shewell's Too Late, (Owner) 3  
Mr. Bruce's Blizzard, (Mr. Cox) 0  
Major Sir H. W. McMahon's Ultimatum, (Owner) 0  
Mr. G. H. Potts's Minstrel, (Mr. Potts) 0  
Mr. Moss Rose (Hon. H. Trefusis) 0

LADIES' NOMINATION; each lady will be provided with a rosette of coloured ribbon, a streamer of the same colour to be attached to a ring. All the rings to be hung up together so that each one can be taken separately. Nominations will start at about 100 yards distant and tilt at them and endeavour to take off the ring bearing their respective nominators' colours, should, however, a ring bearing another colour be taken off instead, the points count to the lady whose colour it is. Points will be added on or taken off for pace. Three runs allowed. Post entries will be accepted, but intending competitors are requested to enter in the ordinary way. Three prizes presented from Gymkhana Fund.

The programme contained six entries, but post entries being allowed, the following 15 competed.—Mr. G. H. Potts, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Walwyn, Capt. Rickman, Mr. Higgin, Mr. Riddell, Mr. Bruce, Capt. Geoghegan, Mr. Cruickshank, Major Sir H. W. McMahon, Hon. H. W. Trefusis, Mr. Cox, Mr. Simmonds, Mr. Lloyd, and Mr. Moxon.

Mr. R. H. Potts (nominated by Miss Potts) 1  
Major Sir H. W. McMahon (nominated by Mrs. Bolster) 2  
Mr. Cox (nominated by Mrs. Ritchie) 3  
STEEPLECHASE; for all China ponies; over the usual Course; weight as per scale with 5lbs. added; Previous winners of a Steeplechase in Hongkong, 5lbs. extra; first prize, cup, presented by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead; second prize, \$25.

Mr. Gresson's Kildare, 11st 6lb (Mr. Gresson) 1  
Mr. Walwyn's Landsknecht, (Mr. Walwyn) 2  
Mr. Johnson's Wizard, 11st 11lb (Mr. Johnson) 3  
Mr. Shewell's Buckingham, 11st 2lb (Mr. Cox) 0  
Mr. Cruickshank's Klondyke, 11st 9lb (Mr. Cruickshank) 0



Mr. G. H. Potts's Minstrels, 11st 8lb (Mr. Bruce) 0  
 ONE MILE HANDICAP, for China pines; entrance, \$3; first prize, cup, presented by the Hon. J. J. Keswick; second prize, \$25.  
 Mr. Gray's Tube Rose, 11st 5lbs (Mr. Gresson) 1  
 Mr. Walwyn's Queensberry, 11st 1lb (Owner) 2  
 Mr. G. H. Potts's Tocsin, 11st 10lbs (Mr. Cox) 3  
 Hon. F. H. May's Montebello, 11st (Owner) 0  
 Capt. Rickman's Yellow Dwarf, 11st 5lbs (Mr. Johnson) 0  
 Mr. Kelly's Sirdar, 11st (Mr. Cruickshank) 0  
 Major Sir H. W. McMahon's Sultan, 10st 13lbs (Capt. Geoghegan) 0

### INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LIMITED.

The following is the seventeenth annual report of the board of directors of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited, presented to the shareholders at the eighteenth ordinary general meeting, held at the Office of the Company, on the 8th June, 1899.

The board of directors submit herewith their report and statement of accounts for the year 1898.

The result of the year have proved satisfactory, the Company's fleet having been well employed at remunerative rates, and the net earnings show a material increase over those of the previous year. The volume of trade was great than could have been expected considering the serious political troubles in which the Chinese Empire has been involved, and it might further be largely increased if the Government were to be re-organized on more enlightened and less obstructive principles, but of this at present there is not much hope.

The Revenue Account, after allowing for full depreciation on the fleet, shows a surplus of £58,863 17 3, which the Directors recommend to be appropriated as follows:—£29,753 8 0 to payment of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent; £9,917 16 0 to an additional payment of a bonus of 2 per cent., both these to be free of Income Tax, leaving £19,197 13 3 to be carried forward to the next year's account.

Exchange Account has been adjusted to the reduced rate of 1/11 p. dollar at a cost of £4,126, which has been provided out of Revenue.

The balance of Underwriting Account, as on 31st December, stands at the increased figure of £135,500, the Company having been fortunate in escaping any total loss during the year.

Since 31st December last the steamer *Kum Sang*, built for the Calcutta trade, has been added to the fleet, and advice has been received of her arrival in China, where she will commence her regular duty. The *Ebani*, mentioned in last year's Report has had her name changed to the *Loong Sang*, and is now working on the Coast and in the China Sea. Another steamer, the *Sultan*, has been purchased in China for local traffic and re-named the *Mau Sang*.

Until more liberal Customs regulations are adopted by the Chinese authorities, it is not likely that anything will be done towards opening up the river tributaries of the Yangtze. To improve the passage of that river as far as Chungking, the British Government contemplates an early survey of the Rapids.

The West River trade in the Canton province is developing, though not very rapidly. It had to contend against a local rebellion which lasted for some months up to September last. There is, however, reason to hope for eventual success, and that in course of time the obstacles to trade, especially to that passing between Canton itself and the upper River, caused by the local authorities may be abated or abolished.

There is no improvement in the River Peiho, for which nothing is done by the Chinese Government, and most vessels have to discharge at or near the Bar into lighters, which causes serious detention and much additional expense. This matter urgently calls for a remedy, nothing having yet been achieved by the River Improvement Scheme which has been so long under discussion.

The retiring directors are William Keswick and Mr. James Macandrew, who being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

The auditors, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs & Co., will likewise be proposed for re-election.

J. MACANDREW, Chairman.

London, 24th May, 1899.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.		
LIABILITIES.		
	£	s. d.
To share capital:—Authorized £1,200,000, first issue 60,000 each £10, whereof 49,589 subscribed and fully paid up	495,890	0 0
To balance of underwriting account	135,501	2 6
To sundry creditors in London and China	15,231	11 7
To loans	66,270	0 0
To exchange reserve account	3,994	4 11
To balance from revenue account	58,868	17 3
	£775,860	16 2

ASSETS.		
	£	s. d.
By steamships, hulks, ferry boats, &c.	686,618	6 7
Less depreciation written off for this year	43,440	4 1
	643,178	2 6

(This includes the value of steamer *Kow Shing*, claimed from the Chinese Government.)

By coals and provisions on board ships and in godowns	10,645	19 6
By office furniture	70	0 0
By sundry debtors in London and China, agents' balance, freights, &c.	15,446	2 6
By cash in London and China	6,320	11 8
	£775,660	16 2

REVENUE ACCOUNT.		
Dr.		
	£	s. d.
To general charges, telegrams, directors' and auditors' fees	5,040	4 4
To exchange account	4,126	7 9
To depreciation account	43,440	4 1
On steamships, &c.	10	0 0
On office furniture	43,450	4 1
To interest account	2,291	6 8
To balance-transferred to balance sheet	5,868	17 3
	£113,777	0 1

Cr.		
	£	s. d.
By balance brought forward from 1897	1,370	7 0
By net earnings of steamers for the year	112,400	13 1
By transfer fees	6	0 0
	£113,777	0 1

### THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors to the tenth ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Office, Queen's Building, at noon on Saturday 8th July:—

Gentlemen.—Your Directors have the pleasure to submit the accompanying statement of the Company's accounts for the year ending 30th April, 1899, and are pleased to be able to point to the further improvement in the Company's earnings.

The balance of Profit and Loss Account is \$39,381.42: after deducting Directors' Fees, \$2,000, there remains the sum of \$37,381.42 available for appropriation, and your Directors recommend that this be disposed of as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 6 per cent (say 60 cents per share)	\$18,000.00
To write off Plant Account for depreciation	17,354.33
To carry forward to next account	2,027.09
	\$37,381.42

The 554 Shares appearing in the Account as \$8 paid up, were forfeited during the year for nonpayment of calls, and have been re-allotted since the Company's Books were closed.

The Manager's Report annexed hereto, gives particulars of the progress made in the Company's operations during the year. To cope with the increased demand for lighting, orders were placed in the Spring for a further set of Generating Plant, viz., Engine, Alternator, Boiler, &c., and it is hoped that these will be delivered, as promised, in time to meet the heavier requirements for light in the coming winter months.

#### DIRECTORS.

The Hon. J. J. Bell, Mr. W. G. S. Sharp having resigned on leaving the Colony, Messrs. C. W. Dickson and A. G. Wood were invited to join the Board. In accordance with the Articles of Association, Messrs. H. L. Dalrymple and A. G. Wood retire, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

#### AUDITORS.

The Accounts have been audited by Messrs. G. Stewart and J. C. Peter, who themselves for re-election.

H. L. DALRYMPLE,  
Chairman.

Hongkong, 19th, June, 1899.

#### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO APRIL 30th, 1899.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital:—			
20,446 shares, each \$10 paid up	\$204,460.00		
554 shares, each \$8 paid up	4,432.00	298,892.00	
Sundry creditors	4,994.17		
Bills payable	1,835.01		
Dividends unclaimed	2,211.40		
Balance of profit and loss account	39,381.42		
	\$346,814.00		

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Plant, cost of, as per last account \$95,500.53			
Less amount provided for depreciation	15,000.00	\$180,500.53	
Cost of plant since added	37,203.80	217,704.33	
Property, cost of land and buildings	60,807.35		
Installation material, stock of	22,120.10		
Stores and coal, stock of	7,105.74		
Tools, &c., on hand	1,423.75		
Furniture, cost of, as per last account \$575.10			
Less amount provided for depreciation	475.10	100.00	
Insurance, value of unexpired portions of policies	35.00		
Sundry debtors	20,715.51		
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cash with	16,983.92		
Cash with agents	263.30		
	\$346,814.00		

WORKING ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
Dr.			
To coals	24,393.00		
To installation material	24,616.69		
To salaries and wages	2,417.17		
To stores	7,975.58		
To charges	2,755.35		
To office expenses	1,000.00		
To rent and taxes	1,673.53		
To repairs	839.23		
To insurance	534.50		
To tools	258.38		
To auditors fees	100.00		
To amount carried to profit and loss account	3,819.27		
	\$121,889.70		

Cr.		\$	c.
By gross earnings of the Company	121,487.70		
By interest	450.74		
By scrip and transfer fees	0.25		
	\$121,889.70		

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
Dr.			
To balance available for appropriation	9,314.42		
	\$39,381.42		
Cr.		\$	c.
By amount of undivided profits as per last account	5,766.55		
By balance of working account brought down	3,616.27		
	\$38,382.82		

#### MANAGER'S REPORT.

Hongkong, 14th June, 1899.

The Directors,—The Hongkong Electric Company, Limited.

Gentlemen.—I have to report that upwards of 4,450 Lamps of various candle power, and 100 Fans, which may be taken together as equivalent to 8,000 lamps of 8 candle power, are connected to the Company's Mains. In addition to the above, a considerable number of lamps are in course of installation.

The number of Arc Lamps supplied, viz., 82, remains the same as at the date of the last report.

During the year under review, the Company have extended their field of operations by establishing a small Electric Power Supply Service for the Reclamation. At the present time, power is being supplied to 4 Lifts and a further 2 Lifts will shortly be connected.

The resources of the Incandescent Lighting Plant were fully employed on several occasions during the last winter.

The Plant and Machinery have been maintained in good working order.—I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. H. WICKHAM, Manager.



### HONGKONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report of the directors presented at the general meeting, held on May 17th, states:—  
The consumption of gas during the year has increased by 10.47 per cent.

Great difficulties have been experienced during the year in obtaining a supply of suitable coals, for which much higher prices than formerly have had to be paid. The Directors are, however, glad to report that they have recently been able to secure coals of good quality at rates considerably below those of 1898, and they trust that, as political matters in the East have now greatly improved, better and cheaper coals will be obtained in the near future, which they are advised is probable.

The total receipts amount to £38,321 2s, being an increase of £2,637 4s. 10d. over the previous year, and the Net Revenue for the year, after providing for Interest on Debentures, amounts to £5,812 6s. 2d, which, with the balance of £2,176 1s. 10d. brought forward from last account, is sufficient to enable the Directors to recommend a dividend of 8 per cent. per annum, free of Income Tax, and to carry forward £2,388 8s. 3d. to next account.

The additions to Capital Account include a payment on account of land being reclaimed from the sea by the Government, thus enlarging our site and which the Directors believe will prove a valuable asset of the company.

### PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the Manager's report for the month of May:—

#### JALIS.

All of the ore, which was only a few tons, that could be found worth it, was mined out from here, but has not yet been milled.

There being no further development work that appears to me advisable to be done in these workings, taking out the pump and other equipment worth taking out was begun, preparatory to stopping all expense at this place and letting it fill with water.

#### TANKONG.

Surface—Open cut for a cart road near adit levels was continued 15 feet, making it a total length of 77 feet. It cut the ore body developed in the adit levels at a point where it is very low grade, and no ore was mined from there.

Adit Levels.—A drive from one of these, in ore ahead of open cut, was driven 14 feet 6 inches to test the ore, which proved of low grade at this point. A drive of 5 feet was put in to connect these levels with uprise from Level No. 1 on Lode No. 2. Some low grade ore and about 50 tons of good ore, average assay value 10 oz. 16 dwts. 84 grs. was mined from these levels.

Level No. 1 (50 foot level).—Crosscut No. 1.—This is the drive referred to as "crosscut" in March and April reports. This was extended 16 feet, making it a total length of 81 feet. It is still in ore, lode No. 2 therein showing about 45 feet thick of a fair grade.

Uprise from crosscut No. 1.—This was continued in ore of an average assay value of about 17 dwts. gold per ton through to adit levels, 15 feet; total height of uprise 38 feet.

North Drive.—This was continued 43 feet, making a total distance of 54 feet. It was turned easterly and out out of the lode, but was continued to connect with main drive at this level to facilitate handling ore.

South Drive.—This was continued on the lode 32 feet, making a total distance of 55 feet. The ore herein is of low grade.

Crosscut No. 2.—This was started across Lode No. 2 from the South Drive 50 feet southerly from uprise from Crosscut No. 1, and driven easterly 25 feet, when it was stopped, and westerly 16 ft. Going easterly it cut through what appears to be the hanging-wall of this lode, and westerly it continues in the lode, which has improved in grade materially therein.

Level No. 2 (100 foot level). West Drive.—This was extended on Lode No. 1, 22 ft. 6 in., making a total distance of 54 ft. 6 in. It continues to show a fairly well defined lode some 2 ft. to 4 ft. thick, but very low grade.

Crosscut No. 1.—This was started from the west drive north-westerly towards lode No. 2

and driven 8 ft. through hard country rock. This drive is being put in to develop Lode No. 2 at this level, which I expect to cut during the present month if it continues down to this level on its dip had in Level No. 1.

So far as present developments show there is a large ore body in Lode No. 2 in this mine of of varying grade; the ore is, as a rule, poor on the hanging wall and improves with development towards the foot wall, which has not been cut yet.

#### MANIK.

Work was discontinued here the first of the month, nothing of value or showing sufficient promise to make further prospecting advisable at present being found. The drives South at Tankong are going in the direction of this place and may later suggest some further work to do here.

#### SELANGO.

Some little further work was done, but the showing hardly seemed to warrant further expenditure here, at present at least, so all work was discontinued.

#### SWAH.

No. 3 Cutting.—This was extended 50 feet, making it a total length of 89 feet. Nothing of value was developed therein.

Considerable surface prospecting was done and about 100 tons of payable ore found in bunches on and near the surface and mined, but nothing of the nature of a permanent reef located as yet.

#### GUBAU.

A little work was done here along the line of reef, but nothing of value or promise found. The best part of this lode as indicated by surface workings has not yet been developed, but will be at once upon completion of erection of winding engine and boiler, which will be early the current month.

#### GENERAL PROSPECTING.

Prospecting and prospecting development work was done to some considerable extent at the Bukit Sarong section of our territory, but without finding anything of value or much promise. One lode, "Pran," about one to two feet thick, shows some good values, though not enough to pay as yet. Further work will be done on it in the hopes it may improve.

#### REDUCTION WORKS.

Mill.—18 stamps were run on headings and 4 stamps and concentrator on Tankong ore, 29 days, treating ore yielding product as follows:—

Ore.	Tons.	Amalgam ozs.	Bullion ozs.	Concentr. Tons.	Assay value
Headings	2275	272.4	97.44	—	—
Tankong	411.5	92.8	33.26	26	£15 11 4

(ore from several different places in the Tankong mine was milled and all results are included in above. These were made as test runs and some of them proved very low grade, particularly 53 tons from Lode No. 1, no more of which will be treated so long as we have other ore to treat, anyway unless it improves in grade.)

#### CYANIDE WORKS.

These were started the latter part of the month but not run enough to make a clean up advisable. Old slimes and Tankong sands were treated here.

#### GENERAL.

Rainfall.—This was light during the early part of the month, but very heavy about the middle, causing some little damage to roads and bridges and dam, though nothing serious. It occasioned considerable delay in our work, particularly at Tankong and at the Bukit Sarong Section.

Health.—This was fair during the month.

In the course of his duties yesterday afternoon, says the *Japan Herald* of 17th June Mr. Cole, chief officer of the N.Y.K. steamer *Hakata-maru* fell down the hold and seriously injured his back. The surgeon of the *Hongkong-maru* was at once summoned to his aid, and Dr. Tripler arrived later on. No bones were broken, but Mr. Cole was pretty badly shaken up. The Company, however, have hopes of his recovery. He left with the vessel to-day (17th) under the care of the surgeon of the ship. The former chief officer of the *Bingo-maru* was going home as a passenger by the *Hakata-maru*, and the Company arranged with him to act as chief officer of the latter steamer until Mr. Cole's recovery.

### RAUB.

The following is the Manager's report for the four weeks ending 5th June, 1899:—

#### RAUB HOLE.

I am pleased to say we have got some gold bearing stone in the bottom of the winze although it is of no commercial value at present as there is not sufficient of it, still it is important as showing that gold is to be found at this depth 270 feet. What makes this find of importance is that it is on the formation in which the rich chute of gold was got at a higher level. We got this gold driving South on the lode formation at the bottom of the winze. I shall now continue the drive some distance further to see if it improves. This winze is making a good deal of water.

Crosscut going East.—This is now in 240 ft. from the level, the ground is a little more favourable and there are a few small leaders in the face the ground is still dry.

#### BUKIT HITAM.

In the level going South we are now in 280 ft. The lode is from 18 in. to 2 ft. wide and carries good gold all the way from the Engine Shaft.

Going North from the Engine Shaft the drive is in 168 ft. The lode in the face is 16 ft. wide and carries fair gold all through. There is a very heavy body of water coming from this lode, giving the pump all it can do to keep the mine free from water. This lode has now been proved for 143 ft. along its course, and carries good gold the whole distance it varies in thickness from 1 ft. to 32 ft. and there are 60 ft. of backs to take out to the bottom of the old native workings, these have been tested 200 ft. apart by sinking two air-shafts down through the lode which carries good gold all the way. I have had to stop driving the North Level owing to the large body of water it has been making. For the past fortnight we have not been able to get into the bottom of the shaft but I hope to have it all out in a few days. Plans and Specifications are now being prepared for pumping gear, both for this mine and for Bukit Jellis which will be much more powerful than any gear at Raub. There is little doubt that this is going to be an exceedingly wet mine I have started to sink a new Main Engine Shaft 14 ft. by 5 ft. clear of timber. This has been sunk and timbered 61 ft. in a fortnight by one European miner and Chinese coolies. This would be a fair record anywhere.

#### BUKIT KONAN.

This great mine continues to develop exceedingly well both in the stopes and lev. is.

No. 1 Level going North. We are retimbering part of this level as the timber was very much crushed and broken. We are retimbering with 12 in. by 12 in. and 12 in. by 16 in. sawn merbau for sets.

No. 2 North Winze which is being sunk to connect this level with No. 2 level is down 22 ft. with first class ore showing in the bottom. As the No. 2 level is now right under this winze 100 feet below and is showing very good gold, it looks well for the stopes in the next level.

No. 1 Level going South.—This level is now in 1,160 feet and is past the line of the No. 1 South Engine Shaft. The lode is a good deal broken in the face; this is caused by a change of ground, which has suddenly become very soft and is making a good deal of water.

In the stopes coming in over the back of this level with the exception of Nos. 1 and 3, they are looking remarkably well and showing from 7 ft. to 32 ft. in width of crushing stuff. For the past four years these stopes have supplied the bulk of the crushing stuff to the mill, and I estimate that not more than one third of the available ore has been taken out above the back of this level alone.

No. 2 South Winze, which is being sunk to connect this level with the No. 2 level, is down 49 ft., showing good gold all the way. The distance between this winze and the one being sunk north is over 1,000 ft. The lode between the two levels has already been proved by two winzes carrying good gold. When the two winzes now being sunk break through to the bottom level, there will be eight faces available to start breaking good ore for the new 40 head stamp mill besides the north end in No. 1 level and as the average width of the lode in the north levels is about twice the width



of what we have hitherto worked, some slight idea of the enormous amount of reserves there are available in this mine alone, may be got.

**No. 1 South Engine Shaft.**—The erection of the pumping and winding plant over this mine is completed and is working very well. Sinking the shaft has been resumed, and it is now sunk and timbered to a depth of 92 ft. As soon as it is down the required depth I will open out and connect with No. 1 south level of Bukit Koman.

#### BUKIT JILLIS.

As stated in my last report, the water being too much for the pumps I have drawn them from the 350 ft. to 150 ft. level and have opened out at this level.

The cross cuts have been extended 40 ft. east and about 26 ft. west.

At this distance in the west crosscut we met with a burst of water which brought in the whole face of the drive and drove the men up the shaft. The drives are now full of water, but I am in hope that will drain in a few days.

Steps are being taken to place much heavier pumping machinery on this and Bukit Hitam mines.

#### BATTERY.

The usual rough clean up for the four weeks took place on the 5th instant, when 1,109 tons yielded 25.50 ounces of amalgam; this is well up to the late average. Crushing was resumed the same evening and has continued steadily since.

#### ELECTRIC INSTALLATION, SEMPAN SECTION.

Good progress is being made with the work on this section. We have finished all the work on the Hydraulic works, to the pipe head reservoir. The power house is finished, about 3 miles of cable posts are erected, and about one mile of cables are placed in position on the posts. Three miles of telephone is finished. We are now waiting for the remainder of the pipes and the generators to complete this section of the work.

About two miles of the posts for carrying the cables are erected at the Raub end of the line; this leaves about 8½ miles to close up the connection; but as this part of the country is very rough and mountainous progress will be slower. I expect in about a month or six weeks to have the whole of the posts erected on the line.

#### NEW BATTERY.

Good progress is being made with the erection of the new 40 head stamp mill. We are now putting the roof on the buildings and good progress is being made with the other works.

#### DAM FOR NEW MILL.

About 9,000 yards of the earthwork has been put into the dam and I hope to have this work completed in about six weeks.

WM. BIBBY,  
Manager.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

### THE CHINESE QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—In your leading article of the 19th June, referring to the "Kienyang Missionary Outrage," you close as follows:—

"The most important point for consideration, however, is what measures are to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such outrages. This question has been before the Foreign Governments for the last half century, and has been dealt with for the most part in a very inadequate manner. Germany has within the last few years shown us one way of treating it, by the seizure of Kiaochow, and it is to be hoped that the action of that Power will on the present occasion be emulated in its vigour if not in the precise details of its methods. Great Britain has disavowed any desire for the acquisition of territory and has in a measure pledged herself to uphold the integrity of China; but if territorial compensation is not to be exacted it is to be hoped that at

least the necessity of reforming the native administration may be thoroughly recognized and that Her Majesty's Government will not hesitate to undertake the task. The Chinese Government, unable or unwilling to maintain order and fulfil its international obligations, must be assisted by foreign control at Peking and in the Provinces."

Theoretically the above pronouncement sounds very nice, and all that seems necessary, in order to solve the Chinese question, is to put it into practice. Here, however, comes the rub, and it seems strange that any one having experience of China and the Chinese should be found to advance such an impractical suggestion. It is also a strange fact that suggestions for compelling the Chinese Government to follow a course diametrically opposed to their inclination, their inherent nature, the habits and interests of the Chinese literati, who are the real rulers of the country, and the whole of their past record are constantly being promulgated by those who oppose all suggestions as to setting up spheres of influence, the only really practical solution of the Chinese Problem. If, as has been repeatedly suggested, a sphere of influence is too big a task for the British to undertake, how on earth are they going to undertake the rule of the whole of the Chinese empire, which the suggestion you make amounts to, and then what are Russia, Germany, France, and Japan going to be doing in the meantime, not to mention America, Austria, Italy, and other Powers who may feel that they ought to have a say in the matter?

Doubtless the successful working of the Maritime Customs is the foundation of the idea of extending foreign control to the Chinese army, navy, and general administration. If so a little reflection will show that there is not the slightest analogy between the administration of the Foreign Customs and that which it is proposed to extend to other branches of the Chinese, or rather the Manchu, administration. To go into it fully would, however, require a lengthy article and it is not proposed to do so here. One point, nevertheless, may be mentioned, it having a very important bearing on the subject.

Everybody knows that the head of the Foreign Customs is a Britisher, but every one does not know that he would be the chief opponent and has been the chief opponent to the extension of foreign control to other branches of the Chinese Administration. He is quite willing that the various departments of the Chinese Government should be administered by a foreigner provided that in every case he is that foreigner, or that protégés of his are appointed and are removable by him at will. What do you think he cares as to whether the Chinese Government reforms or does not reform so long as he builds up a name and a fortune and buttresses the position he has attained by surrounding himself with his relatives and their retainers, who are bound by the strongest tie, self-interest, to support him through thick and thin? Those who know him well are aware that the one thing he fears and the chief thing he guards against is the possibility of any other foreigner, British or non-British, attaining to the position of a confidential adviser of the Chinese Government. There is one exception to this rule of his life, and that is the Secretary of Legation, London, who is in reality his subordinate and who owes his position to him. Did the latter follow an independent line he would be promptly suppressed.

The sphere of influence remedy for the disorder and disorganization permeating the Chinese Empire is progressing in spite of all opposition, as natural influences must, in the long run, prevail against the schemes of man. Human efforts can only succeed permanently where they are directed to the facilitating of nature's course, and who can dispute that nature is bringing about the disruption of the Chinese Empire and its substitution by the various Powers whose expansion can be distinctly traced in the history of the last half century. Nature not only abhors a vacuum, but she abhors disorder, and the cure for the disorder so prevalent in China is at hand and the events of the next ten years will emphasise those of the past eighteen months.

#### SPHERES OF INFLUENCE.

Hongkong, 25th June, 1899.

### THREE TIMES IN A CENTURY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Dear Sir,—The fact that, as you noticed, the recent eclipse of the moon was not observed by many who would have been glad to witness such an interesting phenomenon, suggests that those who possess a knowledge of these things should give us timely warning of the much more rare and beautiful celestial phenomenon which, it is believed, is likely to occur this year.

There is probably no one in the colony who witnessed the remarkable "meteoric shower" in 1833; there may be several who remember its recurrence in 1866; and there must be more who are looking forward in the hope of seeing this phenomenon when the opportunity comes again. If it be true that the period of its recurrence is 33 years, the night of 13th November, 1899, should be one never to be forgotten by those who are then ready and able to see how "the heavens declare the glory of God."

Will you very kindly call attention to this expected phenomenon, and induce the local Observatory to put the public in possession of such information as may be available. Can the date and hours be accurately known? Shall we, on the 114th East Meridian, have a chance of seeing the "Shower," provided of course that the sky is cloudless? How long is it likely to last?

Possibly some preparations might be made by amateur photographers to make a permanent, pictorial, and accurate record of the event. It would be interesting to learn whether the Chinese have any written or traditional account of a similar event in the past.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

R. F. COBBOLD.

Hongkong, 28th June, 1899.

### THE ECLIPSE OF THE MOON AND THE APPROACHING METEORIC SHOWER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In reply to the letter of the Rev. R. F. Cobbold in your issue of to-day, allow me to remark that it does not seem to be so generally known as it should be that the circumstances under which all eclipses of the sun or moon take place are published regularly in the Nautical Almanac, at least three years before they occur; and that from thence they are copied into all local almanacs. If therefore the public wish to be reminded of facts which they can always find out for themselves they might surely depend upon the daily press if the matter is considered by the Editors of sufficient interest to deserve their attention, as it is no part of the duty of a Government Observatory to act as a public remembrance. I have had the honour of being connected with three of the largest English observatories—Greenwich, Cambridge, and Glasgow—and it has certainly been the aim of these establishments to ascertain new facts, to advance knowledge, and not merely to disseminate what has been already published and is open to the most casual enquirer. Such aims may suit the ambition of the observatories of Manila or Siam, but are beneath the notice of even the smallest English observatory.

The shower of meteors which is expected to occur in November next and to which Mr. Cobbold more particularly refers is a phenomenon which comes into an entirely different category, and as one of the few who were eye-witnesses of the display of 1866 some remarks from me may interest some of your readers. That shower, which in most of its features may be expected to be repeated this year, lasted about 5½ hours and might be considered to have maintained its full splendour about half that time. Whether it will be seen here depends mainly on the question whether during that 2½ hours the sun will be below the horizon and the constellation of Leo, from which the meteors emanate, will be above it. If the exact position of the meteor stream in space were known it would be easy to predict this, but unluckily such is not the case, and there is a doubt of as much as 40 or 50 hours as to the actual time when the earth will encounter the stream. It will therefore be necessary to have observers on the look-out in different longitudes around the world, and to secure this Prof. E. C. Pickering, of Harvard College,



Mass., U.S., has furnished instructions and star maps, so that the observations of inexperienced observers may be useful. I believe he is willing to supply these to all would-be observers. Should the eastern portion of Asia be so favoured as to see the coming display observers will be well rewarded for some patient waiting. Judging from 1856 from 50 to 80 meteors per minute may be anticipated and these all of the brightest class with trains marking their courses for many seconds after their passage and all radiating from a constant point in Leo. In grandeur they far exceed the feeble showers connected with Biela's Comet or the Perseids. I do not think that amateur photographers will be very successful, as an equatorial mounting for the camera, driven by clockwork, would be necessary in order to get any useful results. Neither is Mr. Cobbold's other suggestion, that a search be made in the Chinese annals for ancient notices of similar showers, likely to be successful, as it is only within historic times that the comet (Tempel's) which carries along with it this stream has been diverted into the Solar System. Le Verrier gives the date A.D. 126 as that when the planet Uranus first captured Tempel's Comet, and the Chinese traditions that have any exceptional value are much anterior to this.—I am, sir, yours, &c.,

JOHN J. PLUMMER.

Kowloon, 29th June, 1899.

## INOCULATION AGAINST PLAQUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."  
Sir.—There has been a number of plague cases in the Central district of the city, Wellington Street and Hollywood Road in particular. Through your columns allow me to strongly recommend European, Japaneese, Parsees, and others who reside in that neighbourhood to be inoculated with the Haffkine's lymph which has been procured by the Government. There is no doubt a certain amount of protection against plague is secured, but what is more important to know is that in inoculated persons who may get plague the mortality is practically nil—a very good insurance for the twenty-four hours' discomfort which usually follows the injection.

In newspaper columns lately two cases of Japanese doctors were cited as having died after inoculation, and this has had a most deterrent influence in Hongkong so far. I can assure the public that the material now in hand is absolutely safe, as all our servants at Kennedytown are now perfectly well after their inoculation, and all the Dock Company's watchmen have also been inoculated successfully. Inoculations can be carried out any day at the Tung Wah Hospital at 9.30 a.m. or at Kennedytown Hospital at 11.30 a.m. If any number of residents club together to be inoculated at one time, I will use every endeavour to accommodate them at either their own residences or at some more central rendezvous than mentioned above. I will also be glad to give any information on the subject when applied to.

In conclusion I would again strongly urge people residing in the infected areas to be inoculated. It is too late to regret after being attacked by plague.

JAMES A. LOWSON.

Hongkong, 29th June, 1899.

## THE ITALIAN CLAIMS IN CHINA.

Shanghai, 20th June.

The Marquis S. Raggi left in the cruiser *Elna* to-day for Tientsin en route for Peking to take charge of the Italian interests at the Capital. No indication of what are his instructions is so far forthcoming, but the rumours are that the Italian demands will be gradually allowed to drop, a result which though satisfactory in one way is eminently damaging in another to all foreign interests in China, as it gives the Chinese a mistaken impression of the resources and determination of the foreign powers, and is liable in that way to lower the prestige of all western powers in China, and make it uncomfortable for subjects.—*China Gazette*.

Besides the plague cases, there was only one case of communicable disease reported in the colony last week, a case of smallpox imported from Singapore.

## THE NEW GERMAN MINISTER TO CHINA.

Shanghai, 19th June.

The *Empress of India* brought on Saturday from Vancouver the New German Minister to China, Baron von Ketteler, and Baroness von Ketteler, who leave for Peking via Kiaochow in the German cruiser *Irene* to-night or to-morrow. At Kiaochow Baron von Ketteler will meet Prince Henry on the latter's return from Korea. The new Minister served for nearly ten years in the German Legation in China between 1880 and 1889, under Herr von Brandt, and has still many friends in the Far East, by whom he is heartily welcomed back. He has since been employed in the Foreign Office at Berlin and has been Secretary of Legation at Washington and Minister to Mexico, whence he has come direct to China. The Baroness is an American by birth being the daughter of the President of the Michigan Central Railway. Peking Society may well be congratulated on the additions it is about to receive.—*N. C. Daily News*.

## THE COST OF EMPIRE.

The annual report of the Sanitary Commissioner of the Government of India is now published. It gives the particulars of the health of the Kochi Field Force recently operating on the Indian frontier. The force contained 622 European troops. This small body furnished:—

	Cases	Deaths
Enteric Fever	51	30
Intermittent Fever	767	6
Remittent Fever	139	11
Heat Stroke	39	2
Dysentery	371	65
Diarrhoea	211	14

Altogether there were 1,841 admissions and 131 deaths.

The native troops in the column numbered 2,665. They gave 4,491 admissions and 63 deaths.

The "white man's burden" was evidently far the heavier to bear.

## HONGKONG.

There were 1,846 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 217 were Europeans.

Wednesday being Coronation Day the men-of-war were decorated and at noon salutes were fired.

During the week ended on the 24th June there were 148 plague cases and 138 deaths as compared with 109 cases and 117 deaths the previous week.

Mr. Gompertz, Acting Police Magistrate, commenced his duties on Wednesday, when he had the "honour" of dealing with the first cases under the new Lighting Ordinance. Two Portuguese ladies were each fined \$3 for not carrying lights with their chairs; the manager of the Hongkong Hotel was similarly dealt with because some of the hotel coolies had not taken the precaution to carry a light with a trolley; and a bicyclist was fined \$3 for not having a light.

At the Magistracy on the 23rd June Mr. Hastings applied for a re-hearing on behalf of the late shroff of the savings bank department at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, who had been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for stealing a bank pass book, on the ground that the result of the trial would prejudice the jury when the man comes before them on the more serious charge for which he had been committed for trial. Mr. Sercombe Smith, however, refused the application.

Some discontent is expressed that the Observatory did not give notice of the eclipse of the moon on the 23rd June which many people failed to see owing to their not knowing that it was taking place. We notice that at Shanghai, several days before the occurrence of the phenomenon the Director of the S. C. Observatory sent to the local papers particulars concerning it. It was mentioned that during the total phase it would be "specially interesting to notice the colour of our darkened satellite," which it certainly was, the red colour giving a very remarkable effect.

At a regular meeting of the Lion and Rose Lodge, R.A.O.B., held on the 27th June, the

Mr. James Anderson, late of the Amoy Dock Company, who is at present on a visit to Australia, was requested by the Directors of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited, to pay a visit to the mines and give his impressions as to the property. Mr. Anderson's report has been received and may be seen at the office of the Company. After describing in detail what he saw Mr. Anderson says:—"The impression I have formed is that you have a very valuable property here, but that more expert knowledge and the introduction of all labour-saving appliances possible, together with working on a large scale, will be necessary before these mines will obtain the success they deserve."

At the Magistracy on Tuesday morning a special-sessions of Her Majesty's Justice of the Peace was held, the business being "To consider an application from one Arthur Henry Harp for the transfer of his publican's licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises situate at house No. 244 Queen's Road Central, under the sign of 'The Central Hotel' to one Isaac Samuel Greenstein." Mr. T. Sercombe Smith (Police Magistrate) presided, and there were also present Dr. Thomson, Messrs. D. R. Crawford, G. Murray Bain, W. M. B. Arthur, and C. W. Duggan. Mr. Gedge appeared for the applicant and Mr. Grist for Greenstein. The Chairman said Greenstein was a Frenchman and had a licence at Shanghai for a year and a half. There was no police objection. The application was granted.

Our readers will remember that some time ago a Chinaman was found in a rest house on the road to Shatin with his throat cut. At first it was thought that he had been attacked and that an attempt had been made to murder him, but on the man recovering his speech he admitted that he had cut his throat himself. He said he fell asleep in the rest house, and on awaking found that he had been robbed. In his despair he tried to take away his life. He appeared before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith at the Magistracy on 23rd June to answer for his action. He repeated that he attempted suicide because some people stole his money.—His Worship: You seem all right now. Have you got any friends?—Defendant: I have relatives.—His Worship: Are they here?—Defendant: They are coolies at Kowloon godown.—His Worship: Are you going to do it again?—Defendant: No, your Worship.—His Worship: You must keep your life as long as you can; it is worth having.—Defendant: I have no work and cannot get food.—He was bound over to be of good behaviour for six months, himself in \$50 and two sureties of \$25 each, the alternative being a month's imprisonment.

At the Magistracy on Wednesday, before Mr. Gompertz, a chair coolie charged Mr. J. Grant Smith, sen., of Rose Villa, with assault. Complainant, who appeared with his left eye carefully damped with blood, said that on Sunday afternoon he took defendant's son from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to Rose Villa. A house coolie handed him two ten cent pieces in payment. He saw that one of them was bad, so he went to take it back, when defendant came out and assaulted him. Another coolie corroborated. It was admitted that the legal fare for the distance was ten cents. Inspector McLennan said that complainant came to the Police Station at West Point and said that he had been assaulted by defendant. Witness examined the Directory for defendant's name, and gave it to complainant, who went and took out a summons. The man's left eye was bleeding a little, and he also said he had been kicked on the leg. Defendant said that the two coins he gave to the coolie were perfectly good ones, and if complainant got a bad one it must have been changed by the coolie. All the same ten cents was the legal fare. He had no intention of assaulting complainant, and what had occurred was entirely complainant's fault, as he persisted in coming into the yard and creating a disturbance. With regard to the injury to the eye, it might have been caused by complainant knocking against the wall of the narrow entrance to the yard. His Worship said it was a pity Mr. Smith did not give complainant in charge for creating a disturbance, instead of taking the law into his own hands. He should have imposed a fine of \$3, but complainant would get no costs or compensation.



Says "The Moralist" in the *Straits Times*:—The Hongkong Volunteers are going ahead. The latest addition to the corps is an engineer unit, who are to be trained in the duty of helping to work the search-lights at the forts. Perhaps Singapore will get as far one of these days. There is no doubt if ever we were attacked by sea that attack would be made by night and the search-light would have to play a prominent part in discovering the whereabouts of the attackers. The employment of Volunteers in this duty would render available so many more of the Regulars for other important work.

The reported attack on junks at Mira Bay turns out to have been a fraud. On the report being made to him Captain Superintendent May ordered a party of police to proceed from Taipohu in the police pinnace for the purpose of setting free the junk people who, it was said, were being held up to ransom by pirates. The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart joined the party. It was late at night when the spot where the junks were lying at anchor was reached. On boarding the junks the police found the crews asleep and uninjured, the reported attack on them being without foundation.

With reference to the Rev. R. F. Cobbold's letter published in another column, would it be too much to ask Sir Henry Blake to convey to Dr. Doberck, semi-officially or otherwise, an intimation that His Excellency would approve of his communicating to the local papers intimations of forthcoming astronomical events of special interest? The Shanghai and Manila Observatories supply such information and it is, we believe, much appreciated. A community that maintains an astronomer of its own might reasonably consider itself entitled to receive notice of approaching eclipses, etc. We are not aware whether the Governor takes any special interest in astronomical science, but he will, we think, recognise that those who do are entitled to some assistance from the Observatory.

At the Magistracy on 3rd June Mr. T. Sercombe Smith gave an important ruling under the Arms Ordinance in a case in which a coolie was charged with being in possession of arms contrary to the Ordinance. His Worship said—There was a man charged before me with being in possession of arms contrary to the Ordinance. It has since been proved to me that this man was moving arms for another man who had a license to import and deal in arms. It seems to me that if a man has got a license to import and deal in arms it is only reasonable that he should be allowed to carry arms, either by himself or by a duly appointed servant (anybody whom he hires), from the place where the arms are imported into the Colony into his own place of business. These facts were proved in the present case. I think, therefore, it is quite reasonable to hold that the man did not commit an offence against the intention of the Ordinance.

We hear that another highway robbery was attempted the other day. On this occasion, the assailants, emboldened by the success of previous attempts, attacked a gentleman in business in Hongkong, though, as will be seen, they got more than they bargained for. The gentleman in question had gone over to the docks to collect an account from one of the captains whose ship was laid up. When he came out it was getting dark, and his own ricksha having left he got into that of a coolie who came running up to him. When near the bridge at Hunghom village the coolie suddenly dropped the shafts, and at the same time three men he was evidently in league with rushed from the side of the road and all four attacked the European. The latter fortunately had not been thrown out, and as he had a stick with him he was able to defend himself vigorously for some time. His inside pocket containing the money he had collected was, however, torn open, but before the would-be thieves could get their booty three blue-jackets were in sight. They seized the Chinamen, and after having basted them soundly, bound them, and threw them and the ricksha on to the beach, where they left them. As they thought they had punished them enough they did not take the trouble to inform the police, unfortunately, and the Chinamen subsequently managing to free themselves made good their escape.

At the Magistracy on Thursday Edwin Ryder, coxswain of the military launch *Solent*, was charged at the instance of Lieutenant Randall, R.E., with stealing one deck chair, two deck stools, two mats, one pillow, two soldiers' kit bags, one zinc bucket, one copper lamp, one tin of varnish, three fish kettles, two stew pans, seven pieces of soap, and five hundredweight of coal, the property of the Crown, between the 17th April and the 27th June. Evidence of arrest having been given the hearing was adjourned until to-day, bail being allowed.

At the offices of the Public Works Department on Tuesday several lots of Crown land were disposed of by Mr. G. W. Hing. Fourteen lots at Lai Kok Tsui measuring 36,300 square feet, and the annual rent of which is \$2,977, were bought by Mr. Ho Tung for \$21,800, (the upset price being \$21,800) or six cents per foot. Three lots at Wanchai were also disposed of. Lot 1,551 (1,399 square feet; annual rent \$18) realised \$1,36 (upset price \$588), or a dollar a foot. Mr. P. H. Murray was the purchaser. Lot 1,552 (4,515 square feet, annual rent \$57) was bought by Mr. Mak Chun Kee for \$2,500, the upset price being \$1,900. There was no offer for lot 1,553.

The increase in the passenger traffic between Canton and Wuchow has induced Messrs. Banker and Co. to put a second steamer on the run—the *Who Foo*, which has been specially built for the service by Mr. Ngai un. The trial trip, which took place on Thursday, proved her to be everything that could be desired as regards speed, whilst an examination of her internal arrangements and fittings made it clear that every effort had been made to secure the comfort of the passengers. The first-class cabins, which are nine in number, are exceedingly comfortable and the accommodation for the second and third class passengers, of whom over 200 can be carried, is excellent. The *Who Foo* is a twin screw steamer and is illuminated throughout with electric light, in which respect she is unique among the boats going to Wuchow. Captain Marsh has charge of her.

At the Magistracy on Saturday E. L. Stainfield was summoned by Elizabeth Stainfield, of No. 7, Granville Terrace, for assault. Complainant said she had lived with defendant for six years, but they were not married. About six months ago he accused her of having relations with his brother, and said he would not live with her again. He allowed her \$90 a month for herself and children, but on the 19th instant he wrote saying he was only going to allow her \$60 a month, and that if that was not enough he would take the children and she could go back to business. On the 22nd he came to the house, they had some words, after which he took hold of her shoulders and pulled her round the house to put her out, afterwards taking up the poker and smashing the furniture. Defendant's sister (Mrs. Pearne) and her husband who lived next door came in and interfered. They gave evidence, after which defendant made a statement containing some unsavoury details with regard to complainant and his brother, and also accusing complainant of drunken habits. Defendant was bound over for 18 months, himself in \$150 and two sureties of \$75 each.

The *Empress of India* brings advices of the inauguration on the 18th June by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company of a much accelerated overland train service between Vancouver and Montreal. This fast train, known as the "Imperial Limited," leaves Vancouver daily at 1.15 p.m. and runs through to Montreal without change in 100 hours, thereby shortening the time crossing the Continent by twenty-four hours. Specially luxurious and newly designed dining and sleeping cars are run through on the "Imperial Limited," which makes close connection at Fort William with the Company's Lake steamers for passengers wishing to break the journey and enjoy the Lake scenery between Fort William and Ower Sound without additional charge. Though passengers have also the option of leaving the main line at Revelstoke and proceeding through the famous Kootenay mining country in British Columbia and out again over the new Crow's Nest Pass Line to Dunmore Junction, along all of which excellent fishing and shooting is found, and by which route through sleeping car accommodation has also been provided.

following were selected as office bearers during next month:—S.P., Primo J. Oxberry; C.T., Bro. Course; C. Cham., Bro. Wolfe; C.A. of Bro., Primo Croft; C. Treas., Bro. Roberts; C.W., Bro. Parkinson; C. Phy., Bro. Shute; C.M., Bro. H. Ward; C. Con., Bro. Keeper; C. Reg., Bro. W. Manners; C. Min., Primo Burrell; C. Secty., Primo G. Watling; C.T., Bro. Rose. Harmony was contributed during the evening by Primos Burrell and Oxberry and Bros. Ward, Robinson, Marsden, and Roberts.

On the 23rd June Mr. T. Sercombe Smith held an enquiry at the Magistracy in regard to the recent fire at the Wo On Godowns, Kennedytown. It was stated that the cause of the fire was unknown, but that it appeared to have originated among some cotton in the front part of the building on the ground floor. Six of the firms which had goods there were insured to the amount of \$230,000, but several parties had goods there amounting to about \$40,000 which were not insured. The amount of damage to goods and buildings would amount to about \$150,000. The premises were released.

The following general order in connection with the Hongkong Volunteer Corps has been issued:—"The time that Colonel Mainwaring has had the pleasure of commanding the Hongkong Volunteer Corps has been short, but not uneventful. During it, "B," "C," "D" and "E" Companies have been formed and the strength of the Corps raised to over 300, whilst on two separate occasions he has had the honour of commanding the Corps whilst employed on service with the Regular Troops. In bidding the Hongkong Volunteer Corps farewell, Colonel Mainwaring hopes that it may have further opportunities of showing its loyalty and its excellent discipline and drill, and he is sure that it will ever acquit itself with honour and continue to be looked upon by the Colony with pride and affection."

#### CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

Owing to the late heavy rain Sheang Yau and Lo Kong were flooded on the 4th inst. to the depth of ten feet, resulting in the rice crops being destroyed. Some houses collapsed and several children were washed away. The flood did not subside for three days.

News has reached Canton that the late rebellion in Lukfung district is all over, the rebels being scattered and not daring to make their appearance again. Some of the soldiers who were sent to cope with the rebels have returned to Canton.

On the 15th instant heavy rain accompanied by thunder and squalls was experienced in Canton and the surrounding districts, resulting in several junks being wrecked. The most terrible accident was that which happened to a junk on its return voyage from Canton to Fanbu. The vessel foundered in a sudden squall, near Loahkong. There were over eighty passengers, men, women, and children on board, and about sixty persons, mostly women and children, were drowned. The charitable institutions in Canton at once sent boats to pick up the corpses and about forty have been recovered. The great loss of life was probably due to the passengers' accommodation being nailed up by the master of the junk after she left Canton, for fear that there might be robbers amongst the passengers, as has been very common of late. For protection against such robbers passenger junks are now taking to confining the passengers on board and not allowing them to circulate freely over the whole vessel.

All the shops in Takonghu, a market town in Namhoi district, have been closed and business brought to a standstill, owing to the depredations of a gang of robbers whose leaders are Foo Tsan-hoi and Pun Pong. This gang has forced all the shops to pay them a certain sum of money monthly, under threat of being plundered and burned or their owners seized and held for ransom. They marched along the streets in a large band in broad daylight. The case has been reported to the Governor, who has promptly sent a number of soldiers under the command of Colonel Cheng Wai-lum with strict orders to root out the robbers.

A serious outbreak of plague has occurred in some of the villages in Heungshan district.



## MISCELLANEOUS.

The correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* at Weihaiwei writes that the fleet was to sail on the 20th, probably for Yokohama. The *Powerful* was to remain as guardship, or the *Aurora*. The *Barfleur* was expected on the 10th, and the *Powerful* in a few days. The fleet was engaged in coaling from the Indo-China Co.'s steamer *Onsang*, and there were in harbour the *Centurion*, *Victorious*, *Aurora*, *Bonaventure*, *Iphigenia*, *Alacrité*, *Rattler*, *Brisk*, *Humber*, *Fame*, and *Whiting*.

The *Shanghai Mercury* says:—The *Hoangho* is the name of the latest addition to the large fleet of the China Navigation Co., Messrs. Butterfield and Swire. The *Hoangho* will be better remembered as the *Kiangning*, which played a conspicuous part in the notorious Bennertz case. She was formerly the Indo-China S. N. Co.'s *Kongwo* and after passing into the hands of Chinese was by them transferred to Bennertz and Co. Finally she sank at her moorings while loading kerosene, was raised and has been made a really serviceable steamer by Messrs. Boyd & Co. She is practically a new steamer, has new engines, and is in every way a very creditable piece of ship building. On the 18th June under Capt. Stott (late of the same Co.'s *Paknoi*), who has been given command, she went a trip out to sea and made an average of 9½ all the way. She has been most comfortably fitted up for passengers and will for the present be placed on the Company's Kisocho-Shanghai line. It is quite on the cards that she may eventually be replaced by a larger vessel, and be detailed for coastal work in the Gulf of Pechihli.

## COMMERCIAL.

## TEA.

CANTON, 22nd June.—Macao Congous.—Transactions during the past month amount to 2,000 boxes only, showing rather easier rates at the close. The position of Common bold-leaf Congou has in no wise improved, the supply still being very small. Scented Capers.—The market was opened on the 28th ulto. and a steady business has since been passing, settlements to date aggregating 85,000 boxes, against 90,000 boxes during the first month of last season. The First Crop we consider a good average one as regards quality; in appearance, the Teas are considerably inferior to last year's but the liquors are good, and scenting flower is in abundance. Opening rates as compared with those of last season are for Common and Medium Tls. 3 to 4 higher, for Good Medium and Fine Tls. 1 to 2 higher, whilst Finest and Curio are Tls. 2 to 3 lower. Since the opening, however, there has been a considerable decline, and we make the market to-day for Finest and Curio Tls. 1 per picul lower, for Good Medium and Fine Tls. 3 lower, whilst Common and Medium which has been in small supply, have declined Tl. 1 only. Stock in native hands are estimated at 10,000 boxes.

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	9,514,380	10,608,322
Amoy.....	85,684	679,235
Canton.....	717,140	911,089
	10,346,850	12,198,646

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai.....	1,222,849	1,132,577
Amoy.....	3,849	1,061,975
Foochow.....	17,855	...
	1,244,553	2,194,552

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	8,045,356	8,345,515

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama.....	5,881,994	5,348,850
Kobe.....	501,527	656,260
	6,383,521	1,221,110

## SILK.

SHA GHAI, 24th June.—(From Messrs. A. E. Burkill & Son's Circular)—Home markets are quiet. Blue Elephants are quoted in London at 13/0, and Gold Killings in Lyons at Fcs 32. Raw Silk.—Business has been on a large scale again this week, and prices show another advance, but at the close things are quieter. Coarse Silk have been in favor, and some 800/1,000 bales have been settled. The total settlement this mail for White Silk is some 3,100/3,000 bales, the greater part of which is for shipment in one to two months. Yellow silk.—There has not been so much doing this week, there is a good demand for Mienchew, but other qualities are rather neglected and can be obtained at rather cheaper rates. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, June 17th to 23rd are: 5,044 bales White, 22 bales Yellow and 19 bales Wild Silks.—Re-reels and Hand Filatures.—A fair business doing for Lyons, total settlements this week being some 750 bales. There is nothing doing for America. Steam Filatures.—A good demand has existed all week, and settlements are fully 800 bales at prices which leave a good profit to the Filatures. Fully 3,500 bales of Steam Filatures have now been contracted for. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is 62 bales to America, and 89 bales to Continent. Wild Silk.—About 150 bales have changed hands. Waste Silk.—A settlement of 500 picul Kading Fric-net (whole bales) is reported at Tls. 24/25. Pongees.—About 1,000 pieces Shantung Pongees have been settled:—33/34 in. by 19/19 yds. by 36/36 oz. at Tls. 8.4/8.75 19 in. by 19 yds. by 25/26 oz. at Tls. 4.25.

## EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai.....	6112	2,191
Canton.....	33,880	24,874
Yokohama.....	19,531	19,268
	59,523	46,361

## EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai.....	132	197
Canton.....	11,782	11,893
Yokohama.....	30,254	35,987
	42,168	48,077

## CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 30th June.—Stocks are small and prices continue to advance. Quotations for Formosa are \$63.0 to \$64.00. Sales 20 piculs.

## SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 30th June.—The market is now slightly weaker. Quotations are:—  
Sheklong, No. 1, White... \$7.93 to \$7.97 cl.  
do " " White... 7.43 to 7.45 "  
Sheklong, No. 1, Brown... 5.25 to 5.40 "  
do " " 2, Brown... 5.25 to 5.30 "  
Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.88 to 7.93 "  
do " " 1, White... 7.10 to 7.35 "  
Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 5.24 to 5.27 "  
do " " 2, Brown... 5.0 to 5.15 "  
Foochow Sugar Cane... 11.12 to 11.17 "  
Sunglo... 10.30 to 10.35 "

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Hector*, sailed on the 6th June. For London:—1,350 boxes tea (27,350 lbs. Congou, 8,145 boxes tea (191,045 lbs. So. Capar, 2,790 boxes Oolong, 220 boxes tea particulars unknown), 38 cases blackwoodware, 126 cases Chinaware, 1 case hardware, 100 cases palm leaf fans, 60 cases essential oil, 10 cases aniseed oil, 1 case popermint oil, 3 cases gongs, 2 cases bristles, 35 bales mats bags, 40 bales canes, 5 cases ginger, 545 bags green copal, 20 cases chow chow, 5 boxes feathers, 14 boxes curios, 22 packages shells and 4 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchesters:—100 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—100 cases preserves. For London and/or Hamburg:—6 baskets horn tips. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—3 bales clothing. For Antwerp:—100 boxes cassia. For Hamburg:—550 cases cassia. For Odessia:—125 bales canes, and 1 bale matting.

Per steamship *Kintuck*, sailed on the 14th June. For London:—340 boxes tea (7,140 lbs. Congou), 1,816 bales hemp, 958 bales fire-

crackers, 354 cases soy, 327 cases Chinaware, 76 cases antimony ore, 63 rolls mats, 48 cases blackwoodware, 30 cases palm leaf fans, 20 cases aniseed oil, 20 cases essential oil, 5 cases basketware, 5 cases feathers, and 1 case curios. For Marseilles:—100 bales galangal, 35 bales human hair, 5 cases tobacco, 5 cases essential oil, and 1 case feathers. For Hamburg:—1,792 boxes tea and 200 bales broken cassia. For London and/or Antwerp and/or Hamburg:—26 cases bristles. For Liverpool:—269 bales hemp.

Per German steamer *Sachsen*, sailed on the 21st June. For Singapore:—6 cases merchandise. For Batoum:—148 boxes cassia lignea. For Trieste:—100 bales waste silk. For Genoa:—275 bales waste silk, 65 bales raw silk, 6 boxes Chinaware, 1 case blackwoodware, and 1 case feathers. For Antwerp:—500 bales broken cassia, 180 bales bamboo scrap, 111 rolls matting, 65 bales leaf tobacco, 31 bales feathers, 36 bales rattancore, 25 packages tea, 2 cases Chinaware, and 1 box lacquerware. For Antwerp and/or Hamburg:—25 bales feather. For Amsterdam:—64 boxes Chinaware, 22 rolls matting, 10 bales canes, 1 case curios, 1 bale rugs, and 1 case private effects. For Rotterdam:—14 cases Chinaware and 8 bales canes. For Bremen:—223 rolls matting, 25 cases tea stick, 15 cases sundries, and 6 cases ginger. For Hamburg:—801 packages and 500 boxes tea, 7 case sundries, and 1 case silks.

Per steamer *Idomeneus*, sailed on the 22nd Ju e. For London:—100 boxes tea (2,800 lbs. Congou), 5 cases bristles, 133 cases Chinaware, 10 cases essential oil, 300 cases preserves, 10 cases cigars, 21 cases blackwoodware, 3 cases curios, 535 bales canes, 301 bales hemp, 11 boxes feathers, 20 rolls mats, 2,717 packages fire-crackers, and 12 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchesters:—380 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—1 case yarn. For Liverpool:—18 cases iron cylinders and 1,705 bales hemp. For Hamburg:—50 bales rattan shavings. For Port Said:—25 rolls matting and 27 cases glassbangles.

Per P. & O. steamer *Nubia*, sailed on the 24th June. For London:—910 and 1,001 boxes tea 19,110 and 21,021 lbs. Congou, 11,559 boxes tea 24,739 lbs. So. caper, and 320 boxes tea 6,720 lbs. Sorts), 49 bales raw silk, 6 cases silks, 4 cases clean bristles, 2 cases feathers, 1 case blackwood furniture, 1 box Japanese coins, and 38 cases sundries. For Milan:—40 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—786 bales raw silk. Zurich:—25 bales raw silk. For St. Etienne:—5 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—6 cases silks, 235 bales raw silk, 6 cases feathers, 3 cases hair, 100 bales waste silk, and 21 packages tea.

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 30th June.—The Continued wet weather keeps the market firm. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.35 to 2.40
Round, good quality.....	2.75 to 2.80
Long.....	3.07 to 3.12
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 1.....	3.00 to 3.05
Garden, No. 1.....	3.25 to 3.30
White.....	3.80 to 3.85
Fine Cargo.....	4.00 to 4.05

## OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 30th June.—Bengal.—Rats have advanced since last week owing to advancing rate in Calcutta. A large amount of business has been done and the market closes firm at the following figures:—New Patna \$707, Old Patna \$830, and New Benares \$800.

Malwa.—A fair amount of business has been done in this drug during the past week and prices have been well maintained. Closing figures are:—Old (2 yrs.) \$740 with allowance 0 to 2 catties. (3 4 ..) \$760 " " 0 to 1 1/2 " (5 6 ..) \$780 " " 0 to 1 1/2 " (7 8 ..) \$830 " " 0 to 1 1/2 " (9 12 ..) \$860 " " 0 to 1 1/2 "

Persian.—There has been a small demand for this drug, the market closing quiet at \$860 for Oily and \$650 to \$765 for Paper-tied opium according to quality.



Today's stocks are estimated as under:-

New Patna	820 chests
Old Patna	491 "
New Benares	351 "
Old Benares	23 "
Malwa	448 "
Perma	863 "

# COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1899	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
June 24	780	820	787 1/2	—	—	—
June 25	78 1/2	823 1/2	790	—	—	—
June 26	790	830	792 1/2	—	—	—
June 27	790	835	790	—	—	—
June 28	795	840	795	—	—	—
June 29	797 1/2	845	797 1/2	—	—	—
June 30	797 1/2	850	800	—	—	—

## MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Hongkong, 30th June.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

**YARN AND PIECE GOODS.**—45 bales No. 10 at \$63 to \$73.2, 40 bales No. 12 at \$67 to \$71. 100 bales No. 18 at \$79.51 to \$81. 40 bales No. 29 at \$80 to \$85.50. **White Shirtings.**—1,000 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.10 to \$5.15; pieces No. 60 at \$4.42 1/2, 500 pieces D. at \$3.65, 500 pieces No. 600 at \$4.42 1/2, 500 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.37 1/2, 500 pieces X Q at \$4.75, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.10, 200 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.95. **Grey Shirtings.**—1,500 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Fish at \$2.06, 600 pieces Blue Joss No. 1 at \$2.05, 500 pieces C. W. W. Sycee at \$1.00, 500 pieces 11 lbs. Red Flower at \$3.25, 500 pieces 10 lbs. C. W. W. Sycee at \$1.00. **T. Cloths.**—300 pieces 8 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.75, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Gold Dragon at \$2.75, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Gold Dragon at \$2.35, 750 pieces Mex. No. 1 S. Lion at \$1.79, 600 pieces Mex. V. V. Chop at \$2.95. **Long Ells.**—15 pieces 8 lbs. Stag Clo. at \$6.65.

**Metals.**—Tinplates.—300 cases at \$7.55 to arrive.

COTTON YARN—		per bale
Hongkong—Nos. 10 to 20s.	58.00 to 91.00	
English—Nos. 16 to 24.	101.00 to 108.00	
" 22 to 24	106.00 to 110.00	
" 26 to 32	114.00 to 120.00	
" 38 to 42	125.00 to 131.00	

COTTON PIECE GOODS—		per piece
Grey Shirting—Gills.	1.70 to 1.80	
7 lbs.	1.90 to 2.00	
8 1/2 lbs.	2.35 to 3.10	
9 to 10 lbs.	3.25 to 4.00	
White Shirtings—54 to 56 in.	2.3 to 2.50	
58 to 60	2.70 to 3.45	
64 to 66	3.50 to 4.35	
Fine	4.30 to 7.05	
Book-folds.	3.75 to 5.65	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.66 to 1.35	
T. Cloths—Gills (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.52 to 1.72	
7 lbs. (32 in.)	1.85 to 2.10	
6 lbs. (32 in.), Mex.	1.62 to 1.82	
7 lbs. (32 in.)	2.10 to 2.75	
8 to 8 1/2 oz. (36 in.)	2.35 to 3.20	
Drills, English—40 yds. 14 to 16 lbs.	3.65 to 6.35	

FANCY COTTONS—		per yard
Perky Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 8 lbs.	1.60 to 4.75	
Broadw.—Dyed	3.00 —	
Diapers	0.13 to 0.14	
Chintz—Assorted	0.08 —	
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.19 to 0.40	
elvetees—18 in.	0.17 to 0.18	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.25 to 1.25	

WOOLLEN—		per yard
Spanish Stripe—Sundry chops.	0.60 to 1.50	
German	— to —	
Hand M.d. and Broad Cloths	1.20 to 2.25	
Long Ells—Scales	6.16 to 9.50	
Assorted	6.20 to 9.60	
Cambrics—Assorted	11.50 to 31.00	
Lawns—10 yds. 31 inches	8.00 to 20.00	
Assorted	7.50 to 8.50	
Orients—Plum	— to —	
Blank—12 lb.	4.50 to 14.00	
METALS—		per piece
Iron—Nail Rod	4.50 to —	
Square Flat Round Bar	4.80 to —	
Swedish Bar	6.50 to —	
Small Round Rod	5.00 to —	
Wood 1 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	6.00 to —	
Wire 15/25	10.00 to —	
Old Wire Rope	2.00 to —	

Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	9.00 to —
Australian	8.90 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Composition Nails	65.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	42.00 to —
Tiles	— to —
Tin	63.00 to —
per box.	—
Tin-Plates	7.50 to —
per cwt. case	—
Steel 4 to 5	6.25 to —

UNDER S—		per piece
Quicksilver	245.00 to —	
per box.	—	
Window Glass	5.00 to —	
per 10 gal. case	—	
Kerosene Oil	2.05 to —	

SHANGHAI, 24th June.—(From Messrs. N. G. Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.)—The demand for Manchester makes continues to improve and the amount of business put through during the interval must be something considerable, from stock and to arrive, though the published details are rather meager. Attention has been paid chiefly to Grey Shirtings, there being especially a good enquiry for Harkow, but the dealer have to hunt around for suitable cloths many of the favorite cloths being out of stock just now, and none seem to be in more than very moderate supply. Operators for Tint in have also been after 8 1/2 lbs. Shirtings but hold have not succeeded in obtaining replacing cost, however, the accepted dolly now seems to be to sell, as there is much uncertainty concerning the quantity on the way and what it can be sold at. The heavier cloths have not received much attention, but White Shirtings of the latter class appear to be readily saleable at current rates. With the exception of the two mentioned above the markets at the Outports are extremely quiet. For the Spring arrival business is increasing both in American and Manchester makes of Cotton goods, October shipment being the best terms obtainable for anything of importance, though occasionally it is possible to pick up small parcels for a little earlier delivery. The market for Yarns has been very active, especially for Indian spinnings, which has helped to keep prices steady in face of the heavy increment to the supply. Japanese and local Yarns are quiet, but steady at 13.20 for best machine ginned.

METALS, 26th June.—(From Messrs. Alex. Birkfield & Co.'s Report.)—As home quotations continue firm, with no indications of relaxing, we do not think that prices will decline. The Belgian manufacturers have orders to fill, which will keep them occupied for the next ten months, so their contributions to the market, apart from the fulfilment of their orders, are not likely to be large. Locally Nail Rod Iron can be bought at 1.05, against the Home quotation of 1.05s, and the local dealers selling at the former figure are not disposing of their stock at a loss, for the reason that they bought when the price was much cheaper, which enables them to sell now at a profit of 10s. or 15s. The consuming districts will naturally profit from their knowledge, and seeing the quotations, actual requirements. We have heard of the wish in future purchases in smaller quantities for the following business having been done during the week:—200 tons London Hores Shoes at 90s. c.i.f. & c.; 50 tons Telegraph Wire at 83s. c.i.f. & c.; 100 tons Old Round Iron at 105s. c.i.f. & c.; 40 casks Zinc Sheets, assorted at £33 per ton, c.i.f. & c.

## EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 30th June.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.48 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.52
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.01 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	48 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	49 1/2

ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147 1/2
Bank, on demand	147 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147 1/2
Bank, on demand	147 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	4 1/2 % pm
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 % pm
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 1/2 % pm
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.06
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	52.25

## JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 30th June.—A fair business has been transacted during the week and rates in most cases have ruled steady to firm.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been enquired for at from 300 to 302 per cent. prem., but very few shares are obtainable or have changed hands. A demand forward at equivalent rates has also not been met to any extent. Nationals continue in request and the rate has improved to \$21, with buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have been on the market during the week without finding buyers. Unions after sales at \$235 are obtainable at that rate. Cantons continue unchanged and without business. Straits have improved to \$6 1/2 with sales. The Northern Insurances remain quiet at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have ruled weak with sellers at \$312 1/2 and no business. Chinas continue steady with small sales at \$89.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been dealt in at \$29 1/2, \$29 1/2, and \$3 1/2, closing steady at the last rate. Indus have found buyers in fair lots at \$69 1/2 and \$70 and close firm. Douglasses continue quiet with sellers at \$58 and no sales. China Manilas have been done at \$90 and more are wanted, but no further shares come on the market. China Mutuals unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled somewhat erratic with sales at \$175, \$174, \$172 1/2, and \$173 for cash and with sellers at about equivalent rates forward, market closing steady at \$173 1/2. Luzons remain neglected and without business.

MINING.—Punjoms after further sales at \$15 and \$15 1/2 have ruled quieter with sales at \$14.75. Charbonnages have found further buyers at \$260, \$257 1/2, and \$255, closing with buyers at the last rate. Queen Mines continue on offer at 50 cents and small sales have been effected at that rate and at \$47 1/2. Olivers and Great Easterns have changed hands at quotations and Jebeus have found buyers at \$10.75, \$11, and \$11.25. Raubs continue quiet at the reduced rate of \$58 1/2 without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been negotiated during the week at 400 per cent. prem., and close steady at that rate. Kowloon Wharves have improved to \$93 after sales at \$90, \$91, and \$92. Wanchai continue quiet without business.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue to improve and after sales at \$91 and \$91 1/2 are enquired for at \$92 1/2. Hotels have ruled very firm with sales at \$97, \$98, \$100, \$101, and \$103, closing steady at \$103. West Point's and Humphreys remain steady and unchanged with a small business. Kowloon Lands are wanted at \$29.

COTTONS.—No business to report. Quotations, except for Hongkong Cotton, etc. Company, are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Star Ferries have changed hands at the advanced rate of \$16. Watsons at \$14.25 and \$14.50. Ropes have advanced to \$175 and Ices to \$114 with buyers, and Tram ways could be placed at quotation.



Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		\$5 2½ buyers
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	30 p. ct. prem.
China & Japan, ord.	\$4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Nat. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$20½ buyers
Four. Shares	£8	\$20½ buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$1	\$0.
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.75, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$174, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 70
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 65
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 30
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 50, buyers
Hongkong	\$100	\$30, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$5, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$14, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$0	\$28½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$30	\$25.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£0	\$27, x div., bys.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12½, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$00	\$142½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$10½, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$114, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$0	\$93, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$175, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	400, p. ct. p. em.
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$6½, buyer
China Fire	\$20	\$39, seller
China Traders	\$25	\$61½, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$112½, buyers
North China	\$25	Tls. 95
Straits	\$20	\$61, buyers
Union	\$50	\$23½, buyers
Yungtze	\$30	\$110, s. l. & buyer
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$92½, buyers
Lumpreys Estate	\$10	\$125, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$29, buyer
West Point Building	\$50	\$29½, sal. & sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$57, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs 250	\$225, buyers
Gr. Estn. & Co. min.	\$	\$3, sellers
Do. reference	\$1	\$9½, seller
Jelesin	\$	\$11½, buyers
Queen's Mines Ltd.	25c	\$14, buyers
Oiver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$6, sellers
Do. B.	\$3½	\$3.75.
Punjom	\$6	\$14.7, sellers
Do. reference	\$1	\$24.
Raubs	15s 10d	\$8½, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$15½
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$90, sale.
China Annual Pref	£10	£9, 1s, buyers
China Ordinary	£10	£6, 0s, buyers
Do.	£5	£3, 0s, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$8, sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$30, buyer
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$69½
Star Ferry	\$7½	\$6, sellers
Tobrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$3	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$2
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37½	\$39, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$4½, buyers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 26th June.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—The market has been dull this week, although prices have been well maintained, with improvements in some cases. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—No business has been reported in this market. Marine Insurance.—North China Insurance shares changed hands at Tls. 195. Yangtze Insurance shares were placed at \$107½ and \$110. Fire Insurance.—No local business reported. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were placed at Tls. 53, closing strong. China Sugar.—China Sugar shares are wanted in Hongkong at \$173. Luzon Sugar Refining shares are offering at \$58. Dock, Wharves and Godowns.—Shanghai Dock shares changed hands, Ordinary at Tls. 98/99 cash, Tls. 99 for 31st July, and Tls. 101 for 31st August, and Preference at Tls. 108/10 cash. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 162½ cash, Tls. 182½/190 for August, Tls. 190 for September Tls. 19, and for November. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares are offering at Tls. 85. Hongkong Land Investment shares were placed at Hongkong at \$90 and are wanted. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas shares changed hands at Tls. 190. Yeh Loong Cotton Mill shares were placed at Tls. 50 and are wanted. Shanghai

Rice Mill shares were sold at Tls. 25, and American Cigarette new shares Tls. 5. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were placed at Tls. 162½. Tug and Lighter shares are offering. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 55, and Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 50, and Hal. and Holtz shares at \$36. Loans.—Shanghai Municipal 6 per cent. Debentures changed hands at Tls. 101, and Shanghai Land Investment 6 per cent. Debentures also at that price, plus the accrued interest as usual.

Quotations are:—

## BANKS.

Hongkong and Shanghai.—\$500.00.  
Bank of China and Japan, Ltd.—£1.0.  
Do. ordinary.—£5.5.0.  
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$21.00.

## COTTON MILLS.

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 70.00.  
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—\$4.50.  
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 65.00.  
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ltd.—Tls. 75.00.  
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 350.00.

## DOCKS, WHARVES, &amp; CO.

Bay & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.  
Boy & Co., Limited.—Tls. 20.  
Hongkong & Wharves Wharf Company.—\$87.  
Hongkong and Wharves Dock Co., Ltd.—\$62.00.  
S. & K. Wharves & Co.—Tls. 195.00.  
Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 190.  
Shanghai & Hongkong Wharf Co.—Tls. 185.00.

## INSURANCES.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$140.00.  
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$85.00.  
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$62.00.  
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$315.00.  
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 195.00.  
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$100.  
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—220.  
Yungtze Insurance Assn., Ltd.—\$110.00.

## LANDS.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$8.75.  
Lumpreys Estate & Finance Co., Ltd.—\$10.10.  
Shanghai Land Invest. Co. (fully paid)—Tls. 8.00.

## MINING.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$150.00.  
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd. pref. share.—\$100.  
Rauk Australia Gold Mining Co., Ltd.—\$61.00.  
Sherida Consolidated Co.—Tls. 40.

## SHIPPING.

China Mutual preference.—Tls. 72.0.  
Do. ordinary, 2 paid.—Tls. 30.0.  
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 1.00.  
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$58.00.  
Hongkong, Canton and Amoy.—29.00.  
Indo China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 51.50.  
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 162.50.  
Shanghai Freight Co., Ltd.—Tls. 22.00.  
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 70.00.

## SUGAR.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$74.00.  
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$58.00.  
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 53.00.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 57.00.  
Central Stores, Ltd.—\$11.0.  
China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 35.00.  
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$36.00.  
Hewell & Co. J., Limited.—\$5.00.  
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 40.0.  
Shanghai Feather Cleaning Co.—Tls. 400.00.  
Shanghai Gas Co.—\$190.00.  
Shanghai Hosiery Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 62.50.  
Shanghai Ice Cold Storage & Refrigeration Co., Ltd.—Tls. 30.0.  
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 50.00.  
Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 25.00.  
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 55.00.  
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 166.00.  
W. & A. S. S. Limited.—\$14.00.

## TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 16th June (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—There is little of interest to report as having occurred in the doings of our home freight market during the period under review. Rates have remained steady with the exception of that on tea to Pacific, which, although quoted at 1½ cents gold per lb., seems to vary according to the amount of freight offered. The enormous total of tonnage advertised for work via Suez has been somewhat reduced by the withdrawal of one big carrier and a long list of vessels to load for this port at regular intervals has been circulated. Coastwise.—Coal rates from Japan are again back to \$2, and tonnage is offering. Coast rates are practically what the Coast Companies like to make them, there being no competition, and our quotations are therefore nominal. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Balti ore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Königsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net. New York, by sail, 20s. nominal. New York via Pacific, 1½ gold cent per lb. tea, 6 cents per lb. silk, \$10 per ton strawbrid. New York via Suez, 27s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 27s. 6d. for tea all net. Boston, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 4s. for tea, all net. Philadelphia, 5s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea, all net. Coast rates.—Mojito to Shanghai \$2 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe 20 sen nominal; to Nagasaki 20 sen nominal; to Swatow 30 cents nominal; to Amoy 30 cent nominal; to Whampoa 32 cents nominal; to Canton 32 cents nominal; Wuhu and Chinkiang to Canton 8 cands. nominal; to Amoy 16 cands. nominal; to Swatow 16 cands. nominal.

## VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Japan (str.), Bengal (str.), Tantalus (str.), Glenlochy (str.), Inoba Maru (str.), Tonkin (str.).  
For BREMEN.—Bayern (str.).  
For MARSEILLES.—Tonkin (str.), Inoba Maru (str.).  
For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Ambria (str.), Silesia (str.), E. Rickmers (str.), Sarnia (str.).  
For HAVRE AND COPENHAGEN.—Siam (str.).  
For SAN FRANCISCO.—China (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.), Belgian King (str.), Gaelic (str.).  
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of Japan (str.).  
For VICTORIA, B.C. AND TACOMA.—Victoria (str.).  
For PORTLAND, O.—Columbia (str.).  
For NEW YORK.—D. Rickmers (str.), Indrapura (str.), Yungtze (str.), Afridi (str.), Governor Robie; Josephus; St. James.  
For AUSTRALIA.—Eastern (str.), Futami Maru (str.).  
For GENOA VIA STRAITS, BOMBAY, &c.—Rafucos Rubattino (str.).

## SHIPPING.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

## HONGKONG.

June—  
ARRIVALS.  
23. Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.  
24. Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.  
24. Daphne, German str., from Kutchinotzu.  
24. Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.  
24. Mongkut, British str., from Canton.  
24. Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.  
24. Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.  
24. Pigmy, British gunboat, from Manila.  
24. Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.  
24. Yedo Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.  
25. Chunsang, British str., from Sourabaya.  
25. Clio, British str., from Iloilo.  
25. Deuterios, German str., from Saigon.  
25. Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.  
25. Glenfalloch, British str., from Penang.  
25. Macduff, British str., from Yokohama.  
25. Produce, Norwegian str., from Singapore.  
25. San Gottardo, Italian str., from Shanghai.  
25. Victoria, British str., from Tacoma.  
25. Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.  
25. Wongkoi, British str., from Bangkok.  
25. Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.  
26. Hangelow, British str., from Canton.  
26. Lardanus, British str., from Liverpool.  
26. Paoting, British str., from Canton.  
26. Hue, French str., from Haiphong.  
26. Bayern, German str., from Bremen.  
27. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.  
27. Nanchang, British str., from Tientsin.  
27. Catherine Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.  
27. Futami Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.  
27. Taisang, British str., from Canton.  
27. Progress, German str., from Tonkano.  
27. Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.  
27. Ivy, Amr. ship, from Singapore.